

THE TIMES Tomorrow

City limits
The Times profile: the city of Liverpool. Peter Lennon on the city that lost its way



Moving in
Christopher Thomas explains how the US is moving in on Central America

Double
Marcel Pannus talks to actor-director John Cassavetes and his estranged wife, Geena Rowlands about working together on movies

I say, I say...
Philip Howard asks: Did you hear the one about the American President

Home fleet
Company cars. A four-page Special Report looks at this £7 billion-a-year sector of business

Pop tycoon starts air fare auction

Promises of lower and lower Atlantic fares were made by rival airlines after the pop music millionaire Richard Branson, who has bought control of Atlantic Airways, announced his intention to undercut the American People Express with a £99 service in June

£900m building society boost

City net receipts of £900m last year turned out to be the best month on record for the building societies, which will limit scope for lower mortgage rates

Leading article, page 17
Kenneth Fleet, page 19

Renewed violence

Disturbing reports of renewed killings and torture by both security forces and guerrillas are coming from the area of Matabeland placed under curfew by the Zimbabwe Government

Insolvency Bill

Directors whose companies become insolvent will face stiffer penalties under new proposals in a White Paper presaging a new Insolvency Bill next year

Leading article, page 19
Kenneth Fleet, page 23

Pilot killed

The pilot of a Cessna 150 light aircraft was killed yesterday in a mid-air collision with a US Thunderbolt jet-fighter over the Norfolk Broads. The American aircraft was only slightly damaged.

The Times

We apologize to readers, advertisers and newsmen for the non-appearance of *The Times* yesterday because of a strike by Fleet Street engineers.

Leader page, 17
Letters: On remarriage, from Chancellor E. Garth Moore, and others

Leading articles: Fleet Street; Banking; Senator Hart; Features, pages 14, 16

Reconciling Christianity and the bomb; Nato's immediate task, by the West German Chancellor; shy victor of New Hampshire; risqué business; Spectrum: drugging up for the Olympics

Technology in Wales: Special Report on the successors to steel and coal, pages 9-11

Books, page 15

Nicholas Lash, Professor of Divinity of Cambridge, reviews the collected lectures of the Duke of Edinburgh, Chancellor of the University

Obituary, page 18

Dr Labib Habachi, Frederick Brill

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Unions to establish 'underground' group at GCHQ

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Civil Service trade unions are planning to establish tomorrow an alternative representative organization for staff at the Government Communications Headquarters where unions are banned from midnight tonight.

The unions' decision to go "underground" under the guise of an organization called something like "Friends of GCHQ Employees" will be explained over the next few days in a letter to the hardcore group of GCHQ staff refusing to renounce union membership.

It became clear last night that about 250 staff at the secret communications bases have signed the unions' option form, stating they wish to remain employed at GCHQ but also retain their union membership.

They will each receive the unions' letter urging them now to make a positive decision either to accept the Government's £1,000 or not sign the option form at all. They will be advised that the unions believe that seeking a transfer from GCHQ is not really an option

because there are virtually no other areas of the Civil Service which need the specialized skills of the Cheltenham staff.

The letters will also emphasize the labour movement's determination to stand behind them and that they will be financially supported. Some Civil Service unions are likely to press for a prolonged national Civil Service strike if anyone is dismissed from GCHQ.

The unions believe that those refusing to accept the Government's terms will finally drop to below 100 and it will be those staff that the new organization will be designed to represent.

Union leaders will be careful to make sure the word union is not in its title and a full-time official will be appointed to work at Cheltenham liaising with staff at the centre. Previous union activists have indicated that they will be prepared to carry the organization's literature into GCHQ.

Staff would pay subscriptions to the body by direct debit from

their bank accounts and staff in the eight UK outstations would also be kept informed of the organization's operations.

The decision to set up the alternative body was taken in recognition of the inevitability of the Government being able to persuade the vast majority of the staff to renounce union membership in return for the £1,000 payment.

Union leaders were, however, heartened by the response to the TUC's call for support for the day of protest on Tuesday and believe that a dismissal from GCHQ by someone refusing to accept a transfer or renounce union membership would be the signal for widespread industrial action.

There appeared to be a rush of acceptances of the Government's terms for the surrender of trade union rights among GCHQ employees in the 24 hours before the midnight deadline taking the number of those who had accepted the £1,000 between 87 and 88 per cent (Julian Haviland writes).

TUC to call day-of-action if one of staff is sacked

The TUC General Council will call for a 24-hour day-of-action if any civil servant is sacked over the trade union ban at GCHQ Cheltenham.

TUC leaders also decided at the end of a five-and-a-half hour meeting to suspend the membership of the National Economic Development Council and to review membership of other tripartite bodies. Earlier, Mr David Barnett, chairman of the TUC economic committee, had announced that he would no longer sit on the NEDC.

Mr Alan Tiffin, General Secretary of the Union of Communication Workers, said that it would be up to individual unions to decide how they would interpret any day of action. He would call for a 24-hour strike in his own union.

TUC representatives sit on about eighty bodies with government representatives, including the Manpower Services Commission, the Equal Opportunities Commission and the governing body of the civil service, Acas.

There was disagreement among general council members as to how far the TUC should go in breaking off relations. Some argued that the cause of GCHQ employees would not be served if the unions were seen to withdraw from agencies such as the Manpower Services Commission.

There was some opposition from right-wing union leaders to any break with the government.

Mr Barnett is one of the so-

called "Neddy Six" who sit on the NEDC for the TUC.

The prospect of union withdrawal from the NEDC prompted disagreement between employers' organizations. Sir Terence Beckett, director-general of the CBI, appealed to the TUC to attend next week's meeting of the council, saying its withdrawal "does nothing to help the nation's recovery from recession".

The right-wing Institute of Directors said: "The vast majority of businesses will not lose 10 seconds of work time worrying about whether the TUC continues to be involved in NEDC."

Some of the papers may see, page 2

Trudeau quits after 15 years

From John Best, Ottawa

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, is resigning after 15 years in office, his press secretary said yesterday.

The 64-year-old Liberal leader made known his intention in a letter earlier in the day to the party president, Mrs Iona Campagnolo. His retirement had long been rumoured. He will remain in office until a new Liberal leader is chosen, possibly in about three months.

The colourful, frequently controversial and unorthodox Mr Trudeau has been Prime Minister since April 1968, except for a nine-month period in 1979 and 1980, when a minority Conservative government held office.

When the Tories fell in December 1979, Mr Trudeau reversed an earlier decision to resign as Liberal leader. Back in office - he led the Liberals to a stunning election victory - he declined repeated invitations to reaffirm his commitment to step down.

Recently, observers had begun to suspect he might be planning to stay around for still another campaign, but yesterday he put an end to all doubts.

In his letter of resignation Mr Trudeau said being leader of the Liberal Party had been "one of the joys of my life."

Mondale puts brave face on defeat

From Nicholas Ashford, Manchester, New Hampshire

The race for the Democratic presidential nomination has turned into a contest between the party's old guard and its young Turks following senator Gary Hart's upset victory in the New Hampshire primary and his humiliating defeat of Mr Walter Mondale.

Hardly had the counting stopped and the cheering by senator Hart's youthful supporters subsided than both he and Mr Mondale, as well as the five other candidates still in the race, were back on the campaign trail preparing for the crucial series of 26 state primaries and caucuses which take place during March.

Putting as brave a face on his defeat as possible, Mr Mondale described the New Hampshire result as a "cold shower". He had hoped a victory in New Hampshire, following his win in Iowa a week ago, would effectively secure his nomination at this early stage in the race.

Mr Mondale predicted that his well-organised, lavishly financed campaign would restore his front-runner status in the key contests that lie ahead.

Mondale aides doubted whether Senator Hart had either the organization or the funds to consolidate his tactical advantage. The Hart campaign is currently \$300,000 (£200,000) in debt and the Colorado senator has not even filed full



delegate states in major states such as Florida and Illinois.

However an ebullient Senator Hart, who projected himself during the campaign as representing "a new generation of leadership with new ideas", said his victory would provide him with the money, momentum and media attention he needs if he is to remain in the lead during the next crucial phase.

"We do not have the endorsements, we do not have the most money... but what we do have is what no other campaign or candidacy has - that is, a cause and crusade for this country's future."

Continued on back page, col 2



Home and dry: Observer helps John Francome become only the second National Hunt jockey to ride 1,000 winners. Report, page 26. (Photograph: Chris Cole)

Battered Gemayel's road to Damascus

By Robert Fisk, Beirut

President Gemayel of Lebanon arrived by air in Damascus yesterday with his family and a handful of staff. He was accompanied by a Lebanese delegation, including his son, who has at last been forced to concede to Syria's demands.

President Assad met the Lebanese leader at Damascus airport and escorted him to his palace for talks, which are certain to end in the abrogation of the unofficial peace treaty between Lebanon and Israel.

It was a symbolic moment for more than one reason. Just as Mr Gemayel was setting foot in Syria for the first time in his presidency, Mr Caspar Weinberger, the American Defence Secretary, was landing on the aircraft carrier USS Guam - signalling off Beirut.

He briefly visited American diplomatic staff in the city and had reportedly hoped to meet Mr Gemayel. There was a time

Big rise in health charges likely

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Increases of up to 30 per cent over the next two years in health service charges for items such as prescriptions and dental services, or further restrictions on those entitled to them free, are likely.

The increases, which could take prescription charges from £1.40 to more than £1.80 from April, 1985, are foreshadowed in the Government's expenditure plans for the health service.

They show the income it expects from the charges for family practitioner services, which include dental services, rising by 6.8 per cent from £322m this year to £344m next, at a time when the Government expects inflation to increase by only 4.5 per cent.

That would imply an increase this April of 10p on the £1.40 prescription charge, and a rise of about 90p on the £13.50 maximum for routine dental treatment, with the maximum charge for more complicated treatment exceeding £100.

However, in 1985-86, income from charges is expected to rise by another 12.2 per cent to £366m; when inflation is expected to be only 4 per cent. At the same time, however, NHS income of £38m from charges for spectacles will almost entirely disappear as the Government's Bill to restrict the

Kinnock urged to take on the left

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Neil Kinnock is being urged by senior members of his Shadow Cabinet to take on the left-wing activists who they believe threaten the Labour Party's continuing recovery.

With Mr Tony Benn almost certain to be returned to Parliament in today's Chesterfield by-election, plans are already in hand to weaken the influence of his closest followers in the constituency parties.

Mr Kinnock has been told by his most senior colleagues that he should back a move to change the reselection process for parliamentary candidates to prevent more blood-letting next winter and the unsettling of many MPs, perhaps including several Shadow Cabinet figures, by the far left.

The change would have to be made at this year's party conference, because the next reselection process starts in December, 18 months after the general election.

Mr Kinnock is being encouraged to back the replacement of the present system with a new process under which the selection would be by a one-member-one-vote poll of the local party's paid-up members and not by a possibly unrepresentative general management committee.

The revival of a two-stage process, under which reselection could happen only after a motion of no confidence in the sitting MP is not regarded as a way out by those pressing for change, as it would be no real obstacle to determined activists.

With Mr Kinnock's support, however, it is felt there would be a majority both in the national executive and later in the conference for a change to the one-member-one vote system.

It is believed his authority would be sufficient to deliver the votes of the "inspector" and "general" on

English football in ferry skirmishes

Fighting broke out between rival supporters at the Parc des Princes stadium, Paris, last night before the football match between England and France. Knives and bottles had earlier been used in skirmishes involving English supporters on a cross-channel ferry. Four people were taken to hospital after arriving in Dunkirk.

French supporters in the upper tier behind one goal ripped up seats and hurled them at the English on a lower level. In one corner helmeted riot police with batons moved in to break up minor skirmishes between French and English and several of the English

MPs' inquiry condemns electricity price rise

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The electricity price rise of 2 per cent which comes into effect on April 1 has been described by an all-party committee of MPs as unjustified.

The 11 members of the Commons energy committee - seven Conservative and four Labour - have said in their report that the only plausible reason for the rise is to increase government revenue and that the Treasury "should have the honesty to say so".

The rise, which affects only domestic consumers - industry's tariffs remain unchanged - will be put into effect by the 12 area boards in England and Wales, unless legal moves to halt it by the statutory electricity consultative councils are successful.

A change in the electricity supply industry's external financing limit imposed by the Treasury in December resulted in the 2 per cent price rise being demanded by the Cabinet, even though the industry had said that it could meet the new financial targets by increased efficiency. It has now been asked to provide £740m revenue this financial year.

Initially a 3 per cent price rise was demanded by the Treasury, but this was cut after intervention at Cabinet level by the Secretary of State for Energy, Mr Peter Walker.

The Commons select committee, in its report yesterday, said: "Neither in terms of the need for the industry to meet its financial target, nor on the basis of the Government's policy of economic pricing for electricity, are we persuaded by the case for a 2 per cent price increase."

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Why Do You Read So Slowly?

A WORLD-FAMOUS educationalist reports that there is a simple technique of rapid reading which enables you to double your reading speed and yet retain much more. Most people do not realise how much they could increase their pleasure, success and income by reading faster and more accurately.

The details of this method are described in a fascinating book, "How To Read Faster - And Remember More", sent free on request.

According to this educationalist, anyone, regardless of his present reading skill, can use this simple technique to improve his reading ability to a remarkable degree. Whether reading stories, books, or technical matter, you can read sentences at a glance and entire pages in seconds with this method.

Rapid reading brings rapid rewards: to professional and business people, by dramatically cutting the time they spend on paperwork... to students and schoolchildren, by making their studies easier and more enjoyable... to busy housewives, by doubling their reading pleasure snatched in precious leisure moments from the day's routine... to hobby enthusiasts, by enabling them to keep up with everything that is written about their chosen interests.



Remember, rapid reading means rapid understanding - you'll absorb the full sense of the words.

To acquaint all readers of the Times with the easy-to-follow rules for developing rapid reading skill, the educationalist has printed full details of this interesting self-training method in a 24-page book "How To Read Faster - And Remember More", sent free on request. No obligation. Simply return the coupon on page 15 (no need even to stamp your envelope), or write to: Reading Improvement Programme, (Dept TSB6), FREEPOST, Manchester M3 8BA.

Welcome home to Lord Stockton after 20 years

By John Winder

In a sense it was a homecoming for Harold Macmillan yesterday afternoon when, after 20 years absence he once again took a seat in the Parliament of the United Kingdom.

A few minutes after 2.30 an unusually crowded House of Lords watched as the new Earl of Stockton entered amid his impressive escort to take the oath of allegiance in the words he had used as an MP in the House of Commons on several occasions over the past 60 years.

It was not just the benches of the Chamber which glittered with personalities for the occasion. Watching from the sidelines on the steps of the throne were Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, her Chief Whip, Mr John Wakeham, and the chairman of



Lord Stockton with sponsors Lord de la Warr (left) and Lord St Aldwyn.

the 1922 Committee, Mr Edward de Caza.

Yesterday's ceremony had been rehearsed - and well it might be since it is more than

20 years since such an installation. The most junior of Her Majesty's Earls, her erstwhile son-in-law, Earl of Snowdon, took his seat in 1961 and few of

those present yesterday witnessed that occasion, or that two years later when Lord Alexander of Hillsborough was introduced.

Protection promised for next inspector after rowdy planning inquiry

Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, yesterday promised full protection for the next inspector at the proposed widening of the A1 road, north London.

A statement came after day's announcement of the nation of Air Marshal Sir Michael Giddings, the inspector for the latest inquiry, which is in January. Sir Michael planned of harassment and was to his wife.

Speaking on BBC radio, Mr Ridley said: "I am determined that the inspector will have any action he thinks he needs to carry out his duties properly."

He said, at the decision that next inspector should be a former lawyer, that the Government had been forced to get some with legal knowledge because of the way this planning harassment has taken place.

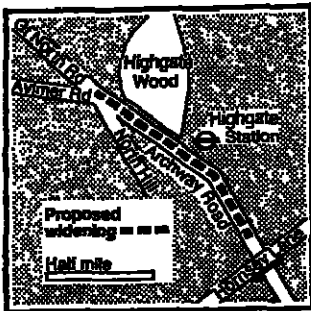
Sir Michael yesterday admitted a sense of shame at the way his wife, Elizabeth, already alive after a two-month stay in hospital, has been the victim of a persistent and often abusive assault in their private life.

It included opening a parcel which contained a letter which threatened violence, or were obscene, receiving 600 letters, disturbing trespassers in their garden, and having two deputations visit their home over Christmas. The police are now watching the house round the clock.

At their bungalow in Tilehurst, Reading, Sir Michael showed little anger at the



Sir Michael: sense of shame.



ence, or were obscene, receiving 600 letters, disturbing trespassers in their garden, and having two deputations visit their home over Christmas. The police are now watching the house round the clock.

At their bungalow in Tilehurst, Reading, Sir Michael showed little anger at the

protesters. "Threats have been made to do me, but that doesn't bother me. I have simply got to the point where I am worried about leaving my wife alone in the house."

The harassment, he says, was encouraged by objectors circulating his home address and telephone number. "In the inquiry objectors have been hysterical at times, believing that the only way to stop the road is by stopping the inquiry. I actually regard most of this as pretty infantile, but the effect on a woman in her own home is serious."

Some protesters have accused him of bias in favour of the Department of Transport proposals, a suggestion which elicits weary resignation since he has been unable to hear any of the evidence.

"There is a strong, responsible body of opposition, and it is by no means certain that I would have come out in favour of the department."

Sir Michael, who rose through the RAF after conscription in 1940 to become Deputy Chief of Defence Staff, has been an inquiry inspector for five years, and presided over the longest public inquiry ever held, into the M1 north of Leeds.

He now believes that whoever takes over when the inquiry reopens in September should be single and invulnerable to pressures on family.

Bizarre Archway battle

By John Young

The resignation of Air Marshal Sir Michael Giddings, the inspector at the Archway Road public inquiry, is the latest quietening episode in a bizarre story that goes back more than 10 years.

A new inquiry will have to be convened. The Department of Transport estimated yesterday that the three previous inquiries had cost the taxpayer about £135,000.

The original order confirming the widening of the road for a stretch of just over one mile was made after a public inquiry in 1974. It forms part of the A1 and is in constant use by heavy traffic.

But that order left a number of ancillary matters mainly

concerning access roads, still to be settled. By the time a further inquiry was called in 1976, the motorway protest lobby had moved into top gear.

The inquiry was abandoned after repeated disruption and after the inspector, Mr James Vernon, had become seriously ill. It was reconvened the following year, under a new inspector, Mr Ralph Rolph, but was adjourned indefinitely in October 1977, when Mr Rolph suggested that the Department should revise its traffic forecasts.

By that time both the Greater London Council and Haringey Borough Council had withdrawn their support. When, in March 1978, Mr William Rodgers, the then Labour

Secretary of State, announced the abandonment of the draft side road and compulsory purchase orders, the objectors thought that they had won.

But last year the present Government decided to switch resources to improving roads in towns and cities.

Yesterday the protesters angrily rejected suggestions that they had been responsible for harassing Sir Michael and his family.

Mr George Stern, chairman of Stop the Archway Motorway Campaign, said that so far as he was aware, there had been only one visit to their home, on Christmas Eve, by a small delegation who had had a polite discussion.

For propos collapse

Plans for an all-out strike at Ford's Dagenham complex on Monday appeared to have collapsed yesterday after a revolt by both white collar and manual workers against the action. Calls have been made for a new dialogue with management.

A proposed nationwide stoppage over the closure of Dagenham's Thames foundry and in pursuit of assurances over the company's investment plan for Britain, also looked like being abandoned.

£3,000 order for Parkinson

Mr Cecil Parkinson, the former Conservative Cabinet minister, was formerly ordered yesterday to pay £3,000-a-year maintenance to his daughter, Flora, the child of his former secretary, Miss Sara Keay.

Neither Mr Parkinson nor Miss Keay attended the two-minute hearing before Radstock magistrates in Somerset.



Princess Anne, back from her tour of the drought-stricken areas of West Africa, yesterday launched a new appeal to help the poor of the Third World.

At a press conference in London, she gave her backing to a plan to raise £750,000 to expand a nutrition unit in Dacca, Bangladesh, run by the Save the Children Fund. The appeal is a joint venture by the Fund and the Townswomen's Guilds.

Kidnap charge men remanded

Two more men appeared before magistrates in Birmingham yesterday charged with the kidnap of Indian diplomat Mr Ravindra Mahare.

Mr Abdul Ansari, aged 23, of Wright Road, and Mr Jamir Mirza, 24, of Membury Road, both Salford, Birmingham, were remanded in police custody until next Friday. Two other men were remanded on Tuesday by the same court.

Europe report on Ulster approved

By Diana Geddes, Paris

The Haagerup report on Northern Ireland, commissioned by the European Parliament, was overwhelmingly approved by the Parliament's political affairs committee in Paris yesterday, but only after the most extreme amendments on such issues as civil rights and reunification had been rejected or withdrawn.

The vote on the amended report was twenty-two for, and four against. All five British Conservative MEPs abstained. Conservatives have always opposed the report on the grounds that it was an unwarranted interference in British affairs.

Those who voted against were the Rev Ian Paisley, of the Democratic Unionist Party, Mr John D Taylor, of the Official Unionist Party, and the two French communist members of the committee. No British Labour MEPs attended yesterday's meeting.

Lady Elles, spokeswoman for the Conservative European Democratic Group and a vice-president of the European Parliament, said afterwards that the report should never have been written.

However, now that it had been done they were glad that a member of the calibre of Mr Niels Haagerup was concerned almost exclusively with Northern Ireland.

Youth training criticized

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

The Engineering Council spoke yesterday of a serious shortage of high-quality training places in industry for professional engineers and called for about £200m a year in government cash to help finance an adequate level of training.

Sir Kenneth Corfield, the council's chairman, pointed out

that the Manpower Services Commission was spending nearly £1,000m a year and added: "Some of the Government's short-term schemes are not very effective: some parts of the Youth Training Scheme are not very effective. We are looking for a switch of funds to something more suitable and applicable."

Union official drops claim for top job

Mr Barry Williams, Merseyside district official of the boilermakers' union, yesterday abandoned his High Court claim for a declaration that he is the union's general secretary.

Mr Justice Whitford was told that Mr Williams had accepted his lawyers' advice and withdrew all allegations of "fraud, bias, and misconduct" in the 1982 ballot for the general secretaryship, which he lost to Mr James Murray.

The judge ordered an inquiry into how Mr Williams obtained legal aid to pursue his abortive action.

The Liberal-Social Democratic Alliance has reached agreement on the sharing of seats between the two parties for the European elections in June, achieving their goal of rough parity.

Of the 78 seats in England, Scotland, and Wales 39 will be "Liberal-led" and 38 "SDP-led", with one, Tyne and Wear, subject to joint selection.

"Under the deal both parties will be involved in the joint shortlisting of candidates in most seats, with the leading party going on to make the selection. In practice, however, in several areas where cooperation is closer there will be other cases of de facto joint selection."

The Alliance's prospects of winning seats are not great. The best prospect is Highlands and Islands, which will be fought by the Liberals; the next best is probably the Lothians which will be fought by the SDP. The Liberals also have high hopes of Northumberland.

The Alliance will this week be launching a document *Working Together for a Better Europe* setting out the themes that will form the basis of its European manifesto.



Giving up?

Benn has no regrets about party turmoil

From Anthony Berrian, Political Correspondent, Chesterfield

In the wake of Mr Denis Healey's fulsome by-election endorsement in Chesterfield on Monday night, Mr Tony Benn said that he had no regrets about his deputy leadership challenge of 1981 or the ensuing turmoil.

Asked on Tuesday whether he had mended his ways, he said: "My honest opinion is that the work we did in the party over the last four years gave us a good policy and a good leadership."

"If the party is strong now, I think it is because over that period we went through a renewal and we lost some of the Tories we had in the party."

"If you saw a strong party on Thursday, it will be in part a

reflection of the fact that we had the time to discuss our position after 11 years in office and there were a lot of lessons to be learnt."

As a commentary on Mr Benn, Lord Whitelaw of Penrith said at an eve-of-poll press conference in Chesterfield yesterday: "If that is what he thinks, he can think anything."

"I would be thought that nobody had done more to create turmoil in the Labour Party at that time."

"I think probably many of his colleagues in Parliament at that time will feel that he did the Labour Party great damage in the period leading up to the election."

"Of course, when they came

to the election they were in a shambles and that contributed, along with our sensible approach, to our very substantial majority. He had a considerable part in that."

Mr Roy Jenkins, speaking at a press conference in support of Mr Max Payne, the Liberal Alliance candidate, said of Mr Benn's remarks: "That, I think, will strike a chill into the hearts of a great number of people."

"If he has no regrets, there must be an awful lot of people in the Labour Party who have regrets about the state to which he has helped, and played a major role, in reducing the Labour Party."

Lord Whitelaw, who was in Chesterfield to support Mr Nick Bourns, the Conservative candidate, said he regretted Mr Edward Heath's suggestion in Monday's Commons vote on the Government Communications Headquarters Bill that the House of Lords should be allowed to decide which couples should be allowed a church wedding when one of them has a partner from a previous marriage still living.

No official church figures exist for the present number of clergy who avail themselves of this right, nor how many marriages they perform, and the last estimate made by the church in 1975, was of just under 500 such marriages a year.

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Letters, page 17

More civil servants fear ban on unions

By Peter Hennessy

Senior civil servants in the Cabinet Office, which houses the Joint Intelligence Organization (JIO) and its assessments staff, are worried that the ban on union membership at the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) could be extended to them.

Lord Gowers, the minister responsible for the Civil Service, wrote yesterday to the Cabinet Office branch of the First Division Association, the senior officials' union, saying: "I can assure you that it is emphatically not the Government's intention to extend the measure applying at GCHQ beyond those agencies whose primary functions are concerned with security and intelligence."

The ambiguity arises over whether the functions of the Cabinet Office's security and intelligence secretariat, the JIO, and the assessments staff are also being primarily concerned with security and intelligence.

The Cabinet Office is a prime customer for GCHQ's information. Mr Peter Marchant,

director of GCHQ, attends the regular Wednesday meeting of the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC). GCHQ alternates with other intelligence agencies in providing the committee secretariat.

GCHQ officials belong to the intelligence groups which pour the world's trouble spots for information. GCHQ's signals and electronic surveillance make an indispensable contribution to this work.

The groups report to the JIC with summaries for inclusion in the Red Book given to ministers on the Cabinet's Overseas and Defence Committee every Thursday.

Ministers' failure until yesterday to guarantee continued union membership for Cabinet Office officials is disclosed in a letter sent to the Prime Minister on Monday by the Cabinet Office branch of the First Division Association.

The letter expresses "the fear and regret of our members at recent developments in connection with GCHQ."

It said the branch's members had never found that their union loyalty conflicted with their loyalty to the state.

GLC votes for night lorry ban

By Michael Bailey
Transport Editor

In an act of defiance against the Government, the Greater London Council's transport committee voted yesterday for a heavy lorry ban on the city's streets.

It is bound to heighten further the conflict over the GLC's proposed abolition, and the transfer of London Transport to a separate Government-controlled body.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, said yesterday that he would not hesitate to use his reserve powers to protect London's economy from any damage such a ban might cause.

The GLC sees the ban as good for its "carriage" image, and important in its fight against pollution.

Mr David Wetzel, the committee chairman, said: "Judges represent a major problem. Their unrestricted use creates serious environmental damage to the capital, including much noise to prevent more than 200,000 Londoners from getting a decent night's sleep."

The ban is expected to operate from 9pm to 7am on all routes over 16½ miles within the M25 orbital motorway.

The decision was fiercely criticized last night by Sainsbury, the food retail chain, as "a recipe for chaos, ill conceived, bringing significant loss of jobs and traffic chaos that will pollute London further, harm the environment, and reduce Londoners' living standards."

Industrial fuel prices reduced

Eso and BP Oil have cut the price of their industrial fuel bulk supplies by 1½ per cent because of competition.

The other large oil companies are expected to make similar reductions, bringing down industrial petrol and diesel prices by about 2.3p a gallon.

3% rejected

Union leaders yesterday rejected a 3 per cent pay offer for 456,000 teachers in England and Wales. The offer, made at a meeting in London of the Burnham pay negotiating committee, was described by the unions as "insulting."

Rate-capping battle rests with Lords

By Hugh Clayton Local Government Correspondent

Three left-wing leaders of London local authorities pinned their hopes yesterday on the House of Lords as the last hope for protecting councils from rate-capping.

Mr Kenneth Livingstone, leader of the Greater London Council, said at a press conference in County Hall: "The justification for the House of Lords is restraining a dictatorial government."

Mr Frances Morrell, leader of the Inner London Education Authority, added: "Now is their chance."

Mrs Margaret Hodge, leader of Islington Borough Council and chairman of the Labour-led Association of London Authorities, said that by curtailing debate in the Commons the Government was giving the Lords a greater incentive to oppose rate-capping.

The three leaders were condemning the Government's attempt to guillotine discussion

about rate-capping in the standing committee on the rates Bill. Only four of the 18 clauses have been debated in full in committee and only one of the Conservative majority on the committee has voted against the Government.

The guillotine motion would curtail debate about the general power to fix ceilings on the rates of all councils. All debate in the committee so far has been about the more limited and power to cap the rate.

"We know that the objection of many of their own backbenchers is the general power," Mr Livingstone said.

Essex County Council faces a government "fine" of more than £7m for overspending this year. Ministers had given it a spending target of £473m against an official costs assessment of £497m. The council, which has budgeted to spend £480m, was commended by ministers last year for its efficiency.

City's leaders pin cash hopes on May polls

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

Liverpool's left-wing Labour leaders are hoping to use the May council elections to boost their plan for high spending without a rise in rates.

"We are going to the electorate on our manifesto promises of no rent or rate rises and on our promises not to betray them," Mr Tony Byrne, one of the inner group of council leaders and chairman of the finance committee said.

Independent observers of the city's convoluted politics bear out his prediction of an increase in the number of Labour councillors at the election. One

third or 33, of the council's seats are being contested, and Labour, which holds ten, could easily add five or six.

Privately, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, although he has no fears for the city's governability, must hope that today's presentation by Liverpool Liberals of a budgetary alternative to Labour's will restore the party's fortunes.

Mr Byrne confirmed yesterday that nothing would alter Labour's determination to stick to its announced plan.

Sale room

Portrait's surprise price signals return to fashion

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

"Portraits are coming back into fashion" was the message from Sotheby's yesterday after the painting of a boy by a little-known Regency artist, Michael Keeling, quipped its estimate to reach £5,280.

The boy, Thomas Carlton Whitmore (1807-1865), is shown kneeling by a massive pillar holding a kitten, with a spaniel beside him. It is a pretty, decorative picture but Sotheby's had thought £1,000 a good price because it is unframed and damaged. The buyer was Mr B. A. Wright, a Bath dealer.

Mr James Miller, the director in charge of Sotheby's British picture department, said afterwards that families were buying back their portraits. They were having portraits painted again, reviving an interest in the genre.

Other high prices for portraits included £5,280 (estimate £2,000 to £3,000) for a handsome full-length of Lord Cochrane in Carter robes, dated 1602, by Marcus Gheerts the Younger, and £2,640 (estimate £500 to £800) for a pretty half-length of a seventeenth-century lady Miss Sparrell, of

Bessingham Manor, Norfolk, attributed to Theodore Rousseau.

On Tuesday Sotheby's scored an astonishing record price for an item included in a children's book sale. A nineteenth-century toy manufacturer's catalogue sold for £20,350, comfortably beating the £17,600 paid in 1981 for the manuscript of Edward Lear's *Book of Nonsense*, which included 34 pen drawings by Lear.

The toy catalogue dates from about 1877 and illustrates the toys made by a firm called G. G. Fendler, possibly in Nuremberg. It is in two volumes and contains 175 lithograph plates. Sotheby's had been estimating £2,000 to £3,000.

It came from a collection of juvenilia formed by Conrad Frederick Van Veen, a Dutch investment banker.

Overseas selling prices
Auctioneers: Sotheby's, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0BH. Christie's, 12, Old Bond Street, London W1. Phillips, 10, Pall Mall, London W1. Bonhams, 39, Old Broad Street, London EC4A 3DF. Sotheby's, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0BH. Christie's, 12, Old Bond Street, London W1. Phillips, 10, Pall Mall, London W1. Bonhams, 39, Old Broad Street, London EC4A 3DF.

Pop music tycoon hopes to beat Americans in cut-price air travel

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

An aspirant for the mantle of Sir Freddie Laker emerged yesterday in the shape of a pop music millionaire who hopes to undercut the American People Express with a cut price full meals air service to New York in June.

Richard Branson, aged 33, owner of the £100m Virgin Records group, has spent more than £1m for a controlling interest in British Atlantic Airways, whose application to offer the service will be heard by the Civil Aviation Authority today.

Mr Branson offered a £99 fare yesterday, but a war of words broke out last night when British Caledonian hit back with proposals for a £50 fare from Gatwick to New York next year, and said the CAA would be taking a "monumental risk" by licensing Virgin Atlantic on the route. B-Cal, which has held a licence but failed to operate to New York for nearly a decade, will strongly oppose the Branson application.

Later Mr Branson threatened to cut some of his prices to £49. The B-Cal £50 fare will be a new "super-tourist" rate for up to 100 seats at the back end of a four-class Boeing 747 operating

daily for B-Cal from Gatwick to Kennedy next year. The rest of the seats in first, executive and standard tourist classes will be sold at normal rates. The £50 seats will be bookable on a first-come-first-served basis.

Mr Alastair Pugh, B-Cal managing director, said there was a sad history of British independent airline failures, with B-Cal the only survivor operating international passenger services. B-Cal valued competition but the question was which company should represent Britain on this crucial route, providing the most professional standard of service and fares.

Tickets for his service, if the licence is granted, will be sold

through Virgin's record shops as well as through the travel trade, and Mr Branson promises something different in the way of airborne entertainment: video films in one part of Virgin Atlantic's chartered Boeing 747, feature films in another, and peace and quiet in a third.

Mr Branson expects to carry 200,000 passengers a year at £99 for an initial fortnight, £119 through the summer and £110 in the winter. He thinks he can undercut People Express, which charges £102, shortly to rise to £110 without meals or baggage, because he can charter a 747 more cheaply now, and because he thinks the American airline is becoming less competitive.

He hopes to start the service, with British management and crew, from Gatwick in mid-June, with daily flights carrying up to 480 people.

Mr Branson, the son of a lawyer and a former air hostess, was educated at Stowe. He started his career by founding a student magazine, went into merchant banking, then into record shops, videos, and pop groups, among whom he controls Culture Club, Mike Oldfield and Heaven Seventeen.

Masculine image analysed

By Robin Young

Men are every bit as diverse and contradictory as women. That was the conclusion of an advertising agency after interviews with 1,000 men to explore the relationship between their personalities and the products they buy.

McCann-Erickson, whose clients include Esso, Coca-Cola, the Post Office and Woolworth, found that British men are less confident than they were, less certain about the meaning of masculinity, and more likely to do the supermarket shopping.

A third claimed to believe in equal rights for women but a fifth complained that modern women had become too aggressive.

Men of each of the eight types McCann claims to have identified have a common image of their approach to life, sadly different in most cases from the reality.

Thus, those who think men should dominate women as James Bond did tend in fact to be Stan Laurel-like creatures who endure domination by others.

Other groups identified include narcissistic action men who wear Aramis aftershave and carry American Express cards, pontificators who claim high moral standards and buy products whose advertising implies self-discipline and success-motivated men who dab themselves with Denim and drink Carling Black Label.

Mystery over death of ex-Soviet agent

By Kenneth Gosling

The facts behind a former Soviet agent's death remained as unclear yesterday as the murky waters of the London pond in which his body was found floating in January, a month after he vanished from a mental hospital in Epsom, Surrey.

Mr Boris Hutton, formerly Baklanov, a former assassin with SMERSH, part of Soviet wartime military intelligence, may have committed suicide or he may have been murdered.

Dr Paul Knapman, the coroner at a Westminster inquest, recorded an open verdict, saying "It is not impossible that there may be other sinister factors in view of his past".

Mr Hutton, aged 59, the son of prominent Soviet Communist Party member between the wars, had been a strong swimmer and never spoke of suicide, the court was told.

His son Phillip, an accountant, of Westerham, Kent, said that his father defected after the Second World War because SMERSH, wanted him to assassinate dissidents against communism which his conscience would not allow. For 10 years he worked as a researcher at The Daily Telegraph.

Police Constable Nicholas Lill who found Mr Hutton, floating fully clothed in the pond at Wimbledon Common, south London said that the water was shallow for 30 ft from the bank and only nine ft deep in the middle. In his experience, drowning suicides would take off their shoes and socks first.

A pathologist told the court that death was caused by drowning, the body bore no injuries and there was no evidence of drugs.

The Soviet Embassy in London had no comment on the case yesterday.

Room that lets the dog out

The Government unveiled the world's first "talking room" yesterday. At a spoken command it can make the tea, draw the curtains, and even open the door to let the dog out (David Nicholson-Lord writes).

Developed by a Cambridge company, it will let the dog in again, by recognizing its bark.

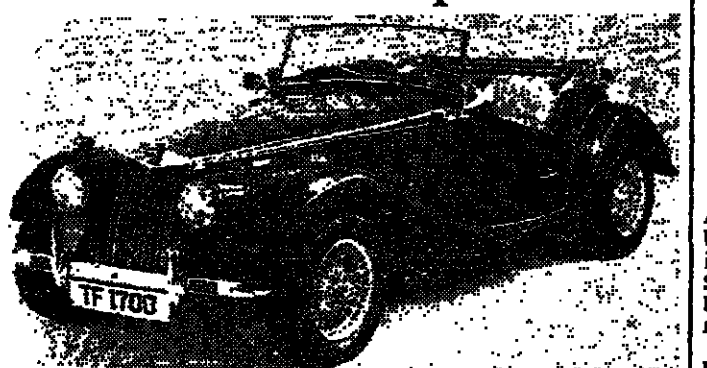
It can maintain a moderate conversation, control anything electrically operated and serve

as a household drone, issuing reminders about unpaid bills and shopping lists.

Known as VADAS (voice activated domestic appliance system) it was demonstrated in London yesterday.

It was designed primarily for the disabled, but with the indolent in mind. Its components, including a microcomputer, can be tucked away in a space the size of a briefcase.

Return in replica



One of Britain's best loved sports cars, the MG TF of 1955 is making a comeback in replica form from a new factory at Bradford, West Yorkshire. The Naylor TF 1700 - the MG name still belongs to BL - has been developed by Naylor Bros, leading MG restoration specialists.

Fitted with the modern "O" series 1700cc Austin Rover engine, coil spring suspension, and disc brakes, the Naylor TF goes into production in May after two years of prototype testing. It will cost £12,950, but with output restricted to only 200 a year there should be plenty of buyers.

Surgeon 'would never guarantee success'

A surgeon who performed a vasectomy which reversed itself told a High Court judge yesterday that he would never guarantee the total success of such an operation. New channels could form between the ends of the severed ducts.

Mr Brian Maurice, of Rotherfield, East Sussex, is denying an action brought by a couple who had their sixth child three years after the husband's vasectomy. Mr Donald Thake, a British

Rail guard aged 45, and his wife Patricia, aged 44, claim that Mr Maurice did not warn them that the operation might fail.

Mr Maurice says he did warn them.

Even if he had failed to warn the couple, Mrs Thake - "a caring, motherly lady" - should have recognized the symptoms of pregnancy, he said. He agreed that it was possible that she thought the symptoms were the onset of the menopause.

Move to stop degree marks disclosure

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Universities are anxious to stop students seeing the "raw" marks they receive in examinations, which they would have the right to do if the Data Protection Bill becomes law.

They have written to all MPs on the standing committee to try to prevent it happening.

At present students receive a grade at the end of a degree course but do not know what marks that grade was based on. Other grades will be adjusted to reflect a difficult examination paper or a tough examiner so, on the face of it, the grade may not represent the mark.

In a letter to MPs on the committee examining the Bill, Mr Brian Taylor, secretary-general of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, says that other factors are taken into account by examiners' boards when determining final grades.

A student's performance during the course would often be looked at in awarding a final grade, as would personal difficulties, such as an illness. "The introduction of a system whereby the initial data considered by boards of examiners would be made public

before any reconciliation process had taken place would not only lead to confusion on the part of the individual student but would also undermine the authority of examiners' boards", Mr Taylor adds.

He explains that the vice-chancellors' committee has lobbied the Government for a limited exemption for "raw" examination marks. That has been rejected but the Government says it will consider any amendment to that effect.

Mr Taylor adds that the universities favour the overall aims of the Bill.



Save our roses, MEP says

By Tony Samstag

Mr Madron Seligman (above), a member of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, who says that the English rose is rapidly becoming an endangered species.

MEP for West Sussex, says that only the Parliament can save the English rose and

wants the EEC Council of Ministers to adopt as a matter of urgency proposals published last month by the European Commission allowing temporary import barriers when imports of roses or carnations are at their peak.

So overwhelming were imports of roses and carnations from non-member countries,

such as Israel, Kenya, and Colombia, that fewer than three cut flowers in every ten sold in Britain were grown here.

"Due to the decline of the English rose it was Israeli roses that wooed the hearts of romantics on February 14," Mr Seligman said. (Photograph Suresh Karadia.)

Two jailed on \$7m computer bank fraud

Two men were jailed yesterday for their part in a bank swindle which almost made them millionaires overnight. But they were caught because of the computer's memory. Colin Howard, aged 51, a company director of Transept Street, Camden Town, north London was jailed for seven years and Laurence Tomsett, aged 32, a Telex operator of Clapham Common south London, for five years.

Mr Colin Hart-Leverson, QC for the prosecution, told the Central Criminal Court that it was a brilliant plot that was immaculately timed.

Tomsett, working at the Credit Suisse First Boston Bank in Bishopsgate, London, diverted \$7m (about £4,760,000) by telex to Howard's personal bank account in Geneva via a bank in New York.

It was timed so that Howard would withdraw the money in cash from the Swiss bank on America's Thanksgiving Day.

Banks in London and Geneva were working on November 25, 1982, and they could not check with holidaying bank staff in New York.

Both men were convicted of conspiracy to steal, falsifying accounting documents, and interfering with a computer to deceive the Morgan Guaranty Trust Bank. They pleaded guilty.

Advice on ways to keep tax bills low

By Kenneth Gosling

With less than a fortnight to Budget Day some useful tax-saving hints are published today by Which?, the magazine of the Consumers' Association.

The annual guide, which warns of the dangers of concealing information from the taxman, advances legitimate ways of keeping tax bills to a minimum.

For example, if a husband and wife each earn the same amount, but one has to give up work to look after the children, it is preferable for the wife to remain in employment.

This, the guide says, is because if the husband is the sole breadwinner he is entitled to the married man's personal allowance of £2,795, but does not qualify for the wife's earned income allowance. But if the wife is the sole breadwinner both her earned income allowance of £1,785 and his allowance can be set against her earnings, a total of £4,580. It can mean up to £535.50 extra if they pay tax at the basic rate.

On how to claim a rebate, the guide advises claimants to persist even if the taxman's initial reply is less than hopeful.

The Which? Tax-Saving Guide is available on subscription to the Consumers' Association.

Tomcat stays behind bars

The ginger tomcat at the centre of a Crown court case will have to remain behind bars for the time being, a court decided yesterday. The cat will stay with a veterinary surgeon until his ownership is settled.

A jury at Snaresbrook Crown Court, north-east London, yesterday acquitted Monty Cohen, aged 57, unemployed of stealing the cat from Police Constable John Sewell and his wife Anna.

But it found Cohen, of Thornhill Close, Woodford Bridge, Essex guilty of assault-

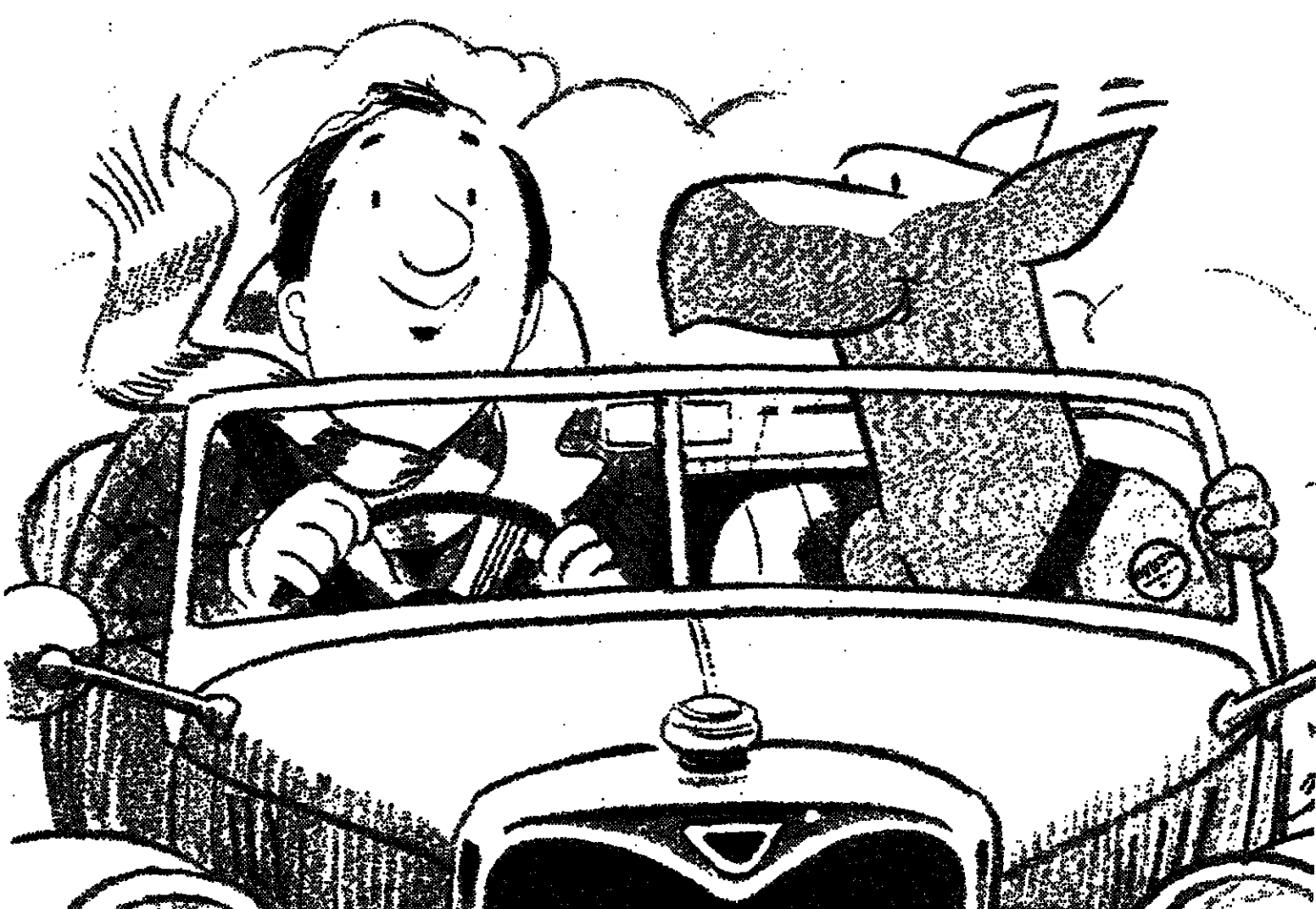
ing PC Sewell, causing him actual bodily harm, last September after a dispute over the cat.

Judge Worthington adjourned sentence after hearing that there was an outstanding charge of criminal damage against Cohen.

PC Sewell had said the cat was called Marmaduke Gingerbits, but Cohen said it was his pet called Sunny.

The Sewells' cat disappeared while they were on holiday

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Jaguar cars to go private as soon as possible

INDUSTRY

Decisions over proposals for the privatization of the Jaguar car company will be announced as soon as possible, Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said during Commons questions today. At present he was considering the board's 1984 corporate plan which included suggestions for the first step towards the return of the business to ownership by the public.

Mr Neil Hamilton (Tatton, C) who had raised the issue, said: "The excellent performance of the company makes it an attractive candidate for privatization and the taxpayers' interest in this matter is a factor for getting money out in the best terms possible and the experience of other nationalized industries so far shows we ought to take the money and run."

Mr Tebbit: Certainly I am anxious to see this company returned to true ownership by the public and I shall be in a mind when I am arranging that matter, the best interests not only of the taxpayer, but of Jaguar and BL.

Sir William van Straubenzee (Wokingham, C) will be asked to make a statement on the absolute commitment to the handing to the private sector of this great company and will be in a mind when the National Freight Corporation when it comes to the participation

in shareholding of those who work in the company?

Mr Tebbit: Certainly, as with all measures of privatization, we shall do our best to make sure there are attractive terms for the workers in the company.

I am afraid it is likely that it would be too big an operation for a management and worker buy-out which would be more likely to have an adverse effect on the company's balance sheet in relation to the borrowings that would be required.

Mr George Park (Coventry North East, Lab): Although Jaguar has established its own identity, it is interdependent on the rest of BL. If Jaguar goes to someone who has their own means of producing components away from BL, there would be a repercussive effect which could affect the possible future of BL.

Mr Tebbit: I will bear in mind all these considerations in reaching my conclusions.

Will he also bear in mind the need for long-term access to research and development which could be provided by BL and could he give an assurance that he has ruled out the possibility of retaining a large or minority stake in Jaguar?

Mr Tebbit: I understand the need for a company such as Jaguar to have some degree of access to outside research and development facilities as many companies do. I note his comment about BL. The sale of Jaguar could have a serious impact on BL's ability to remain in the high-volume low-margin car manufacturing business and this could have a serious effect on jobs in Britain.

Robinson: Will BL keep stake in Jaguar?

Mr Peter Robinson (Coventry North West, Lab): He will understand the need for long-term capital for Jaguar which will be beyond management buy-out provisions.

Will he also bear in mind the need for long-term access to research and development which could be provided by BL and could he give an assurance that he has ruled out the possibility of retaining a large or minority stake in Jaguar?

Mr Tebbit: I understand the need for a company such as Jaguar to have some degree of access to outside research and development facilities as many companies do. I note his comment about BL. The sale of Jaguar could have a serious impact on BL's ability to remain in the high-volume low-margin car manufacturing business and this could have a serious effect on jobs in Britain.

Mr Peter Robinson (Coventry North West, Lab): He will understand the need for long-term capital for Jaguar which will be beyond management buy-out provisions.

Committee chairman criticized

OMAN CONTRACT

Mr Brian Sedgmore (Hackney South and Shoreditch, Lab) criticized the conduct of Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, Chairman of the Select Committee on Members' Interests, for commenting on the radio about Mrs Thatcher's involvement in the Omani university contract.

Raising the issue on a point of order, Mr Sedgmore said some two weeks ago various MPs lodged complaints with the select committee concerning the Prime Minister's conduct concerning the contract in Oman.

Last Saturday (the said) on *The Week in Westminster* the chairman of the select committee (Mr Johnson Smith) broadcast a statement in which he spoke about Mrs Thatcher's dealings in Oman and spoke, in effect, about her innocence.

Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith had said Mrs Thatcher had in no way committed misconduct or broken any rules and said it was merely a mother trying to defend her son.

reverse this grotesque and evil competition.

There was a case for discussions with the Soviet Union about ways of controlling the war in the Middle East and other potential outbreaks of international crises.

What was required was a positive initiative to restore stability over as much of the Middle East as possible.

Lady Young said the British force which had left Lebanon remained close at hand and had been taken.

It remained in the West's interest that stability should be restored in Lebanon. Until this was achieved, there was always the risk that the situation could deteriorate.

During his visit to Moscow with Lord St. John, leader of the Opposition peers, said when he opened the debate that the moment was ripe for a new approach to the problems of Eastern Europe.

He hoped common sense on both sides would take advantage of the new opportunity which the change in Russian leadership presented.

The death of Mr Andropov might result in any fundamental change of policy but it reduced the tension for a period. There must be improved relations leading to realistic talks if the world's problems were to be tackled.

East and West knew there were no winners in a nuclear war. Both had stockpiles of weapons which could destroy civilization more than 100 times over. The chief task of world leaders was to get together to

In my respectful submission, it is difficult to conceive a greater contempt of the House than that the chairman of a select committee conducting a sensitive inquiry should in fact seek to preempt the issues.

The Speaker, Mr Bernard Weatherill, intervened to say that was a matter for the House to decide.

Mr Tam Dalyell (Linlithgow, Lab), in a further point of order, said it was a precedent, in 1967 (he said) for having talked too freely on a select committee report, the question was raised of breach of privilege.

As a result of talking to Downing Street, Mr Lawrence Marks, it was automatically raised on the floor of the House as a question of privilege.

Can we ask for your guidance, possibly in a statement tomorrow, whether the astonishing broadcast on Saturday morning does constitute a flagrant breach of privilege of this House?

Mr Speaker King was quick enough on the draw in those days

(1967) and we would like to know what has changed.

The Speaker: I remember the incident well. If he considers it as a matter of privilege he should raise it in the usual way by writing to me.

Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, asked the Prime Minister, on what date in 1981 she first learned of the Omani contract, and on what date she first learned of Mr Mark Thatcher's financial interest in the Omani contract.

Mr Thatcher, in a written reply, said: "There is no record. But in any case I have made it absolutely clear that during my visit to Oman I raised Britain's general interest in all aspects of the university project, industry, construction, and academic."

I did not raise the interest of Ceneration or of any other company which at that stage could have been interested in securing the right to negotiate on any aspect of the project.

He hoped Moscow would accept this idea.

The House would have liked to have had from the Opposition spokesman a defence of the Labour Party's disarmament policy, a comment on Mr Kinnoch's statement that he would in no circumstances authorize the firing of nuclear weapons even in retaliation.

Was it right to refuse to use them in any circumstances? If it was right, was it also right to announce this fact publicly in advance? (Cheers)

Mr Kinnoch had given no thought either to the responsibilities of a Member of Parliament or to the waste of public expenditure involved in building up conventional weapons which could neither deter nor be used effectively.

Lord Brockway (Lab) said his criticism of the Government was that at the disarmament conference at Geneva and at the United Nations it had played an obstructive role. Because of the attitude of British negotiators at these conferences, Britain was getting a name in the world for standing against disarmament.

Lord Home of the Hirsel (C) said that for many years the Government had pursued a formula of mutually balanced and verifiable disarmament. It was the only formula which was equitable and it was NATO policy as well as the policy of the British Government.

There had been no change over the years in the direction of Russian foreign policy. All Russian actions in the context of confrontation and armaments had been totally consistent with a policy of expansion.

He predicted that Russia would return to a disarmament forum but would not commit herself to any action until after the US election. She would not agree to any scheme which in her judgment could prejudice the inevitability of Russian power. She would not close any of her options for expansion overseas. She would continue to occupy Afghanistan and Czechoslovakia and to preserve her cordon sanitaire.

exercised where the freeholder was a charitable trust. He said it would be anomalous to create such an exclusion in the context of the Bill. Existing law safeguarded the position of various bodies, including universities.

The Earl of Saltkirk (C) said he was surprised by the Minister's flat refusal to consider the position of charities. He was putting charities in a disadvantageous position compared with others. The amendment was close to the welfare of certain charitable associations which deserved the fullest consideration.

There was a further reverse for the Government when peers carried by 136 votes to 104 - majority against the Government, 32 - an amendment to exclude the right to buy houses which had been altered or adapted for occupation by handicapped persons.

Moving to Viscount Ingleby (Ind) said such houses were in short supply. The amendment would keep these dwellings in public ownership for the benefit of future generations of disabled people.

Lord Bellwin, in reply, said a distinction should be drawn between dwellings which were purpose-built for the disabled and those which had simply been

Rate capping Bill must be law by summer

TIMETABLE

The Rates Bill - which introduces the system of rate capping - was of great importance to millions of ratepayers and a central part of the Government's programme.

Mr Billie Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House, said when moving the imposition of a guideline motion on the further progress of the Bill.

The motion provides for the standing committee stage to be completed by March 20 with two days on the floor and third reading, the first day extending until midnight.

He said the Government wanted the Bill which restrained local government spending and formally down the rates of the highest spending local authorities, completed before the summer recess.

He said the Bill would be given time for it to be properly examined by the Lords, the Commons must complete its consideration in time for the measure to have its second reading in the Lords before Easter.

After 80 hours of debate the standing committee had managed to complete only six clauses. The committee had taken 18 hours to deal with Clause 1, 35 hours on Clause 2 and another 18 hours on Clause 3.

The highest spending authorities must be identified and formally designated in fairness to the authorities, spending levels must be set early enough in the year to allow them time to make the necessary plans.

Arrangements must be made to achieve the required savings or to make representations to the Government if a higher figure was necessary. They then the expenditure would be translated into a rate poundage figure and time given for Parliament to debate that figure before the authority had to make its rate or precept.

All that process could not begin until the legislation was complete. This was why the Bill needed to be finished before the summer recess. The intention was that the measure would be available in readiness for rates to be set for 1985-86, the financial year after the one starting in the coming April.

There had been four years of effort to counter the growth in local government spending. Exhortation

and general pressure through the rate support grant had not had the desired effect on all authorities. The Government had had to invent new procedures, including the Local Government Finance Act 1982, to restrain higher spending.

These attempts had eventually secured a fair balance between the needs of most authorities. In 1983-84, 80 per cent of all authorities were spending at or close to the targets set for them. But there was still local overspending of £770m in the current financial year. Three-quarters of that was accounted for by 16 authorities.

Mr Peter Shore, Opposition spokesman on House of Commons affairs, said it was an odious and offensive Bill made doubly odious

than town hall what was in the best interests of local people in the provision of local services.

This was a rotten Bill. It was an ideological Bill, it was for expressing two things only: the Government's determination of public expenditure in principle and its total disregard and indifference to the inner cities in particular and local democracy in general.

Mr Sydney Chapman (Chipping Barnet, C) said he feared that what had taken place in the first 80 hours or so of this Bill in the standing committee had been nothing more than a charade or even a farce.

The antics at least called into question parliamentary procedures, the purpose of Parliament or the purpose and function of this legislature. The sad result was that it would be possible to scrutinize the Bill properly.

There should be a voluntary timetable agreed before any Bill went to its standing committee so that there could be adequate time to examine all parts of it.

Mr Colin Moylan (Lewisham East, C) said it was necessary to establish a timetable in order to see this important and welcome legislation on the statute book with the least delay. Government measures had encouraged councils to control expenditure and make savings more than £1,000m, but many had used the fact there was no compulsion to allow expenditure to grow unchecked.

Mr Michael Meadowcroft (Leeds West, L) said the electorate was apparently incapable of exercising judgment at the ballot box on the affairs of local government.

Whenever Conservative MPs related to rate rises, they conveniently forgot that rate rises had been high because of the reduction in the grant made available to local government.

The Government was culpable in not having a timetable on the Bill from the first day. All Bills should be dealt with in this way, and all parties should be involved in the procedure to avoid parties of Bills not being discussed at all.

This motion would not allow adequate debate of the Bill's clauses. Yet the Bill was so important and significant for the

country's democratic health and structure.

Mr John Hiddle (Staffordshire Mid, C) said the Bill would have been a classic candidate for taking evidence and opinions from those experienced in local matters, both of the executive and elected councils, before the committee began its work.

Labour MPs were wrong in saying there was wholesale opposition throughout local government to the Bill, which sought to protect the hard-pressed ratepayers in cities like Liverpool.

Mr Allan Roberts (Bootle, Lab) said that the general powers were in the Bill because the Treasury wanted them not because Mr Jenkin the Secretary of State for Environment wanted them.

The legislation was going to put local authorities into a situation where some would have to choose between breaking the rating law and breaking other statute law.

The motion was carried by 33 votes to 196 - Government majority, 137.

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The Government was culpable in not having a timetable on the Bill from the first day. All Bills should be dealt with in this way, and all parties should be involved in the procedure to avoid parties of Bills not being discussed at all.

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Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

Mr Denis Healey never ceases to astonish. On Monday evening he was given the most delicate assignment of the

Chesterfield by-election: to demonstrate the new unity of the Labour Party by showing that he and Mr Tony Benn are brothers-in-arms.

Throughout the campaign, the only serious challenge to Mr Benn has come from the Liberals. Only they could defeat him, and to do so they needed to convince many doubtful voters that he is just too extreme a politician to represent Chesterfield. But Mr Benn has presented a baffling target for the Liberals.

One of the mistakes that his opponents so often make is to assume that because so many people find his views outrageous, they will be equally outraged by his method of presenting them. That is not so.

He has fought an accomplished campaign, aided, it must be said, by the foolishness of the Liberals in avoiding for most of the time joint meetings with the other candidates. They obviously feared that their candidate, Mr Max Payne, would have been destroyed in debate with Mr Benn at an earlier stage in the campaign.

That, I suspect, does Mr Payne an injustice. Hearing him on the platform and on the doorstep, he is a better performer than I had expected. Keeping his mind under wraps simply strengthens the impression of Mr Benn as the most formidable candidate.

Illusion of cameraderie

But it has still been an essential part of Mr Benn's strategy to present himself as the representative of his party, not an alarming figure of the Left. That is why Mr Healey's mission was so critical. Who better to show that Mr Benn is no longer a cause of strife in the party than the man whom Mr Benn once so nearly toppled from the deputy leadership?

But, after all the conflicts between them, how could Mr Healey jump through this hoop without making an ass of himself?

His response to the challenge will linger in the memory for its wit, candour, and a kind of rock-solid sincerity. "Tony... well, we've been inseparable... Tony without Denis would seem like Torvill without Dean." How better to provide the necessary illusion of cameraderie without actually saying a word in direct personal praise of Mr Benn?

It was not a fastidious performance because Mr Healey was throwing the cloak of his approval with every appearance of relish over a politician with whom he had bitter and fundamental disagreements. But then Mr Healey is not a fastidious politician.

This was the performance of an old political pro, with his full measure of cynicism, who had decided that if a message or reconciliation had to be delivered, it had better be done with some panache. As an old political entertainer he did it well, but he was careful to do it without offering any concession on substance.

'Vindication' of Left-wing policies

This raises the critical question: reconciliation on whose terms? Mr Healey spoke as if he took it for granted that it would be on his terms. In calling for a massive majority for Mr Benn today, Mr Healey declared that Mr Benn "is going to join the solid, loyal, united band behind Neil Kinnoch". Listening to Mr Benn one wondered.

As he seems victory, he seems to be preparing the ground for the claim that it is after all his policies which will have been endorsed by the people of Chesterfield. "The people," he told that same meeting on Monday evening, "demand the policies that Labour put before the electorate... The policies of this town."

He added the following morning: "When people say this has been a very different mood of Mr Benn's... I think what people are discovering is that the arguments we have been putting forward all along are very reasonable."

This looks as if he will interpret victory, especially as a sweeping victory, as a vindication of the left-wing policies on which Labour contested the general election. Chesterfield is to be regarded as a court of appeal against the verdict pronounced by the wider jury of the national electorate last June.

Observers going to El Salvador

HOUSE OF LORDS

The Government would send two official observers to the presidential elections in El Salvador on March 25, Lady Young, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said in the House of Lords.

Lady Young said the El Salvador Government had invited Britain to send official observers. The Prime Minister, Sir James Callaghan, had agreed to the request.

It had been made clear (she added) that they were to draw their own conclusions as a result of their experience there.

During the debate, she also said Britain needed to establish a more direct contact with the Soviet Union to help minimize the dangerous risk of any misunderstanding.

The Government would try to achieve a steady and sustainable progress in disarmament talks. It would be undramatic and Britain had made it clear it was ready to make a start.

Lord Cledwyn of Penrhys, leader of the Opposition peers, said when he opened the debate that the moment was ripe for a new approach to the problems of Eastern Europe.

He hoped common sense on both sides would take advantage of the new opportunity which the change in Russian leadership presented.

The death of Mr Andropov might result in any fundamental change of policy but it reduced the tension for a period. There must be improved relations leading to realistic talks if the world's problems were to be tackled.

East and West knew there were no winners in a nuclear war. Both had stockpiles of weapons which could destroy civilization more than 100 times over. The chief task of world leaders was to get together to

exercised where the freeholder was a charitable trust. He said it would be anomalous to create such an exclusion in the context of the Bill. Existing law safeguarded the position of various bodies, including universities.

The Earl of Saltkirk (C) said he was surprised by the Minister's flat refusal to consider the position of charities. He was putting charities in a disadvantageous position compared with others. The amendment was close to the welfare of certain charitable associations which deserved the fullest consideration.

There was a further reverse for the Government when peers carried by 136 votes to 104 - majority against the Government, 32 - an amendment to exclude the right to buy houses which had been altered or adapted for occupation by handicapped persons.

Moving to Viscount Ingleby (Ind) said such houses were in short supply. The amendment would keep these dwellings in public ownership for the benefit of future generations of disabled people.

Lord Bellwin, in reply, said a distinction should be drawn between dwellings which were purpose-built for the disabled and those which had simply been

PLANNING

Sir Michael Giddings, the inspector conducting the inquiry into the major road improvement scheme at Archway in north London has resigned because of harassment of him and his family.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, announced in a statement to the Commons on Tuesday. A fresh inquiry is to be set up as soon as possible.

Mr John Prescott, chief Opposition spokesman on transport, said: "There is no record. But in any case I have made it absolutely clear that during my visit to Oman I raised Britain's general interest in all aspects of the university project, industry, construction, and academic."

I did not raise the interest of Ceneration or of any other company which at that stage could have been interested in securing the right to negotiate on any aspect of the project.

He hoped Moscow would accept this idea.

The House would have liked to have had from the Opposition spokesman a defence of the Labour Party's disarmament policy, a comment on Mr Kinnoch's statement that he would in no circumstances authorize the firing of nuclear weapons even in retaliation.

Was it right to refuse to use them in any circumstances? If it was right, was it also right to announce this fact publicly in advance? (Cheers)

Mr Kinnoch had given no thought either to the responsibilities of a Member of Parliament or to the waste of public expenditure involved in building up conventional weapons which could neither deter nor be used effectively.

Lord Brockway (Lab) said his criticism of the Government was that at the disarmament conference at Geneva and at the United Nations it had played an obstructive role. Because of the attitude of British negotiators at these conferences, Britain was getting a name in the world for standing against disarmament.

Lord Home of the Hirsel (C) said that for many years the Government had pursued a formula of mutually balanced and verifiable disarmament. It was the only formula which was equitable and it was NATO policy as well as the policy of the British Government.

There had been no change over the years in the direction of Russian foreign policy. All Russian actions in the context of confrontation and armaments had been totally consistent with a policy of expansion.

He predicted that Russia would return to a disarmament forum but would not commit herself to any action until after the US election. She would not agree to any scheme which in her judgment could prejudice the inevitability of Russian power. She would not close any of her options for expansion overseas. She would continue to occupy Afghanistan and Czechoslovakia and to preserve her cordon sanitaire.

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Moving to Vis



Mr John Profumo in front of the original Toynbee Hall Toynbee Hall seeks to raise £1m

Mr John Profumo, chairman of the council of Toynbee Hall, launched a £1m appeal on Tuesday for the university settlement and social workshop in Tower Hamlets, east London, which celebrates its centenary this year. (Robin Young writes).

At a luncheon at Mansion House Mr Profumo said that experience had proved that governments alone could not do away with deprivation. Toynbee Hall needed money for specific and urgently needed projects, and for a sinking fund to secure its future.

"In all my 20 years at Toynbee we have never been able to look forward from one

year to the next knowing that we have a substantial amount in the kitty. We have always relied entirely on begging."

Toynbee, which has provided the blueprint for many schemes to help the needy, plans with proceeds of the appeal to reopen its college, build new training workshops, and launch what Mr Profumo described as a "global plan" to raise living standards in the East End.

Lord Tony Pandy, who is chairman of the centenary appeal committee, said it should be on everyone's conscience that there were still such vast dark patches on our land, such as the East End.

40% flout motorway speed limit

By Michael Baily
Transport Editor

Given a straight stretch of road, fine weather, and no police cars, 40 per cent of British motorists will exceed the 70 mph speed limit on motorways. Eleven per cent will exceed 80 mph, and 3 per cent exceed 90 mph, according to the Department of Transport's latest National Speed Survey.

The survey finds that traffic speeds are continuing to increase despite the rising cost of fuel. On single carriageway roads, the mean speed increased from 42 mph in 1975 to 44 mph last year, and on dual carriageways from 52 mph to 58 mph.

On motorways, the mean speed for cars last year was 63 mph (there were no previous motorway surveys); for buses and coaches it was 66 mph, with 31 per cent exceeding the limit; and for heavy lorries 58 mph, with 39 per cent exceeding the (60 mph) limit.

The tests were carried out with concealed cameras which filmed passing vehicles and measured the time between two points. The results were analysed by computer, with vehicle type the only identification.

They were made on straight and level sites in good weather with neither gradients nor junctions. The police were asked to keep away except in emergency.

The survey found considerable differences in motorway speed according to lane. Cars averaged 59 mph in the nearside lane, 70 mph in the central lane, 80 mph in the offside lane.

'Science for girls' call by women

By Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent

A clear lead must be given by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to persuade girls to study science and technology at school, according to the Women's National Commission, which advises the Government on issues affecting women.

In a statement the commission says that the Department of Education and Science has yet to build on the good start made by Sir Keith in his speech to the Girl's Schools Association in Harrogate. It wants a circular to be sent to all education authorities telling them to persuade girls not to give up mathematics, physics, and chemistry and that they should learn about technology and computers.

The commission, jointly chaired by Mrs Peggy Fenner, Conservative MP for Rochester and Chatham, and Mrs Nancy Catchpole, says that it is imperative that action is taken to combat sexism in schools. "Sex stereotyping leads to the exclusion of studies (vital in the modern world) which would ensure wide job opportunities for girls and boys."

"Research indicated that bodies appointing teachers may be unfair to women by taking into account extraneous considerations and not giving sufficient weight to selection criteria related to likely performance in the job."

Smoking in Britain: 3

Cigarette sales fall has halted, industry says

Britain's 15 million smokers were encouraged to "stub it out" in campaigns throughout the country for yesterday's National No Smoking Day. In the last of three articles on Smoking in Britain, JOHN LAWLESS examines the state of the tobacco industry.

If Mr Nigel Lawson does, as is widely predicted, add between 3p and 5p to the price of a packet of 20 cigarettes in his Budget on March 13, it will cause the industry pain, but by no means as much anguish as it would have done a decade ago.

There are two main reasons. First, the cigarette makers have diversified strongly into other industries in the past 10 years, a process that will continue.

Second, the index-linked price rise in the last Budget, of 3p, did not produce a big slump in consumption.

The number of cigarettes smoked in Britain fell from a peak of 137.4 billion in 1973 to 102 billion in 1982. Estimates for last year suggest that the 1983 decline was less than 1 per cent, to 101 billion.

The tobacco industry finds that trend, at least in terms of its sales and profits prospects, encouraging. One industry executive said yesterday: "It seems as though we may have achieved a fragile stability."

Some City analysts also believe that the downward sales trend may have bottomed-out and that, as long as the Chancellor keeps price rises in line with inflation, they will stay at about 100 billion a year.

Mr Mark Duffy, of the stockbrokers W Greenwell, which yesterday published a 50-page report on Carreras Rothmans International, Britain's third largest cigarette producer, said: "The cigarette manufacturers really felt the recession in the years 1980 to 1982, behind other manufacturing industry."

With the economy now generally lifting, he added, their problems should not be so persistent. The trends suggest that the decline in sales "is coming to a halt".

Tax paid by smokers, with nineteenth century coming from cigarettes, remains a tremendously important source of revenue for the Treasury. But it has, in fact, been decreasing in value.

In the decade up to 1982, a year in which the Treasury called £4.2bn in tobacco taxes, including value-added tax, the real value of its net receipts fell by 5.5 per cent.

The cigarette manufacturers have lobbied intensively during the past few weeks to remind the Chancellor what a swingeing tax increase would cost in terms of jobs in their industry.

In 1974, about 421,000 people were directly employed in making cigarettes. By 1980, 6,000 jobs had been lost. Another 5,000 went by the end of 1983, so that the employment reduction rate has almost doubled in the past three years.

Recent announcements by Rothmans and British American Tobacco (BAT), about factory closures over the next two years, mean that at least another 3,000 workers will be laid off.

There are four main cigarette companies in Britain: BAT, the world's largest producer, Imperial, Gallaher, and Carreras Rothmans.

Competition between the last three has just been pushed to even higher levels, with a BAT decision to reduce its British market presence. It is keeping some manufacturing, to supply a distributor with its brands, notably State Express 555.

The battle is on between Imperial (45 per cent of the market last year), Gallaher (32.5), and Carreras Rothmans (which doubled its share from 1975 to more than 14 per cent in 1983) to take the 5 per cent which BAT had built up.

Concluded

Starvation and summary punishment

Brutality returns to Matabeleland

From Stephen Taylor, Bulawayo

Reports of army brutality are emerging from an area of Zimbabwe's troubled Matabeleland province, sealed off from the outside world since a dusk-to-dawn curfew was imposed almost four weeks ago.

Civilians who have managed to evade the military cordon around Matabeleland South and reached the provincial capital of Bulawayo paint a harrowing picture of life in the curfew area where troops dispense summary punishment to those suspected of supporting the insurgency in the province. There are frequent but unconfirmed reports of killings.

The most widespread form of suffering among about 420,000 peasants trapped in the drought-afflicted scrubland is acute hunger. Crops have failed for a third successive year and resources are exhausted. The Army has cut off food supplies to the curfew area and is forcing rural stores to stay shut.

Five church leaders in Matabeleland have written to Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, and President Canaan Banana, appealing for relief to be restored. But sources say the Army is still not allowing food in. A medical source says: "We face the prospect of widespread starvation."

Introduction of the curfew on February 3, after an upsurge in guerrilla violence, raised the spectre of the slaughter of Ndebele civilians by the Fifth Brigade a year ago.

Then disclosures about the

killings, supported by clergy-men and voluntary workers, were denounced in Harare as anti-government propaganda. But some months later an official four-man committee of inquiry was appointed to investigate army atrocities.

The committee convened here in January and heard evidence in camera that thousands of peasants were massacred by the Army between January and March last year, mainly in the Tsbolotsho and Lupane districts of Matabeleland North. Further testimony is to be submitted before the committee sends its report to Mr Mugabe.

Indications of new killings came in a speech by Mr Joshua Nkomo to Parliament on February 14. The portly Zapu leader - who shouted "I will not be intimidated" against heckling from the government benches - named six men allegedly murdered near Kezi by soldiers the day after the curfew was introduced.

There are other reports of killings, but they come at secondhand and independent sources have been unable to confirm them. Church and voluntary organizations are having difficulty monitoring developments. Army road-blocks prevent private traffic entering the curfew area and journalists are barred.

All informants speak of severe and random beatings of civilians, including women and children. Soldiers are said to use



Adversaries: Mr Nkomo (left) and Mr Mugabe

thick sticks or lengths of heavy leather about a yard long and the thickness of a thumb.

Medical sources say the beating often causes fractures. One said a seven-year-old girl had been beaten so severely her broken arm was likely to be paralysed.

Military sources assert that local people, traditionally antagonistic to the majority Shona-speaking tribes, actively support the guerrillas. People in Matabeleland deny this and say it is impossible to refuse food to an armed man. Neither picture tells the full story.

The consequences of this bitterness could be seen when a group of teachers were brought to a Harare hospital this week after an incident in which they were hideously maimed by the Matabeleland guerrillas.

Angola fears Unita infiltration will upset pull-out pact

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The joint Angola-South Africa monitoring commission today begins regular supervision of the withdrawal of Pretoria's remaining troops from southern Angola, which it is hoped could lead to a wider Namibia peace settlement.

Official sources in Windhoek, the Namibian capital, said yesterday that Swapo guerrillas were making a last attempt to push into Namibia from southern Angola before the Pretoria-Lusaka pact comes into full force, blocking further infiltration.

As South Africa pulls its men out, Angolans will move into the vacated areas and supposedly see to it that Swapo units remain above a line to the north. During the delicate handover period, however, there is likely to be some fluidity in the situation and a danger that the fragile ceasefire could collapse.

It is understood that Angola has told Pretoria of its fear that the Unita rebels of Dr Jonas Savimbi, whose writ runs in much of east and south-east Angola, may also try to move into the vacated areas. The South Africans have given military support to Unita in the past.

America is also involved in the monitoring of the "disengagement" process through a small office in Windhoek under Mr William Twaddell, a former chargé d'affaires in Mozam-

bique who speaks Portuguese. The main task of the Americans, it is understood, will be to provide radio communications expertise and, possibly, to act as arbiter in the event of a dispute.

Police in the dock: Five South African policemen - four whites and one black - are due to appear in court this month on charges of murder. They all come from Dirkiesdorp in rural eastern Transvaal.

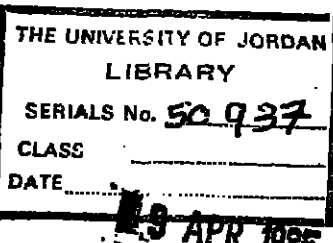
One of the men, Constable Johannes Niemaber, shot dead Mr Saul Mkhize, a community leader, on April 2 last year in Driefontein, a black village threatened with resettlement in a tribal reserve.

The shooting occurred at a protest meeting convened by Mr Mkhize.

He appeared briefly before magistrates on Tuesday, but the case was postponed and is expected to be heard in the Volksrust Circuit Court on March 20.

The other four are due to appear in the same court on March 28. They are accused of murdering Mr Timothy Manana, a black tractor driver who died in Dirkiesdorp police station on May 3 last year after being arrested the previous day on suspicion of cattle-stealing.

The police are also charged with attempting to murder Mr Manana's aged father, who was detained for questioning at the same time.



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On the road.

VOLVO

Iraq admits loss of oilfield to Iran

By Hazhr Teimourian

Iraq yesterday admitted the loss of the Majnoon oilfield, an island with a number of oil wells in the marshlands of Hawzab in south-eastern Iraq, whose capture Iran claimed in the early phase of its offensive last week.

An Iraqi military spokesman said Iranian forces on the island would soon be crushed; Iran claimed it had already repulsed one attempt to recapture the island. Iran said Iraq had used chemical weapons. Many soldiers were being treated in hospitals in Ahvaz and Susangerd, two southern Iranian towns, it was alleged.

After Baghdad's announcement on Monday that its planes had attacked tankers around Kharg Island and Washington's report that one of its warships had used flares and warning shots against an Iranian frigate, the oil futures market in New York climbed steeply amid heavy buying of crude oil, heating oil and petrol.

In Japan, which imports 60 per cent of its oil from the Gulf, a mood of nervous resignation prevailed. The country can count on stockpiles equivalent to 120 days' supply to avoid short-term disruption of economic activity.

Ayatollah Khomeini did not try to calm the situation. On Tehran Radio on Tuesday, he referred to President Reagan's repeated declaration that the West could not allow the Gulf to be closed to international shipping by Iran. It was "up to the people of Iran to decide" he said. "The superpowers can no longer sit back and say: 'We shall allow this and not allow that.'"

● **Superpower strength:** If an international crisis develops because of the Gulf war, there are already substantial naval forces in the area which could be drawn in (Our Foreign Staff writes).

The United States has three separate groups in the Indian Ocean and four or five vessels, mainly destroyers and frigates, but including the USS Lathrop, a specially converted command ship, in the Gulf area.

Further off, but within easy reach, is a carrier battle group headed by the USS Midway, which is accompanied by six escorts. Further away still, patrolling the Indian Ocean, is the main force of the Seventh Fleet, with about 30 ships. The Soviet Union is reported to have about 26 ships in the region.

Britain and France each have two vessels in the area. In Britain's case, they are the County Class destroyer HMS Glamorgan and the Type 22 frigate HMS Brazeal.

The French ships are the frigate Victor Schoelcher, armed with Exocet missiles and 100mm guns, which is in the extreme north of the Arabian Sea, broadly between Dubai and Karachi.

Further afield is the logistic support vessel, the Rhein, which is unarmed but has 150 men on board. She is due in Djibouti at the southern entrance to the Red Sea tomorrow.

Kohl visit gives hope of EEC solution

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Hopes of a solution to Europe's cash crisis have been kept alive by the visit to London of Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany. "We are moving towards a compromise," he declared after two hours of talks with Mrs Thatcher.

With the crucial Brussels summit less than three weeks away, signs of movement have not come too soon. The Chancellor, standing in the cold of Downing Street, added a warning that the way ahead would be difficult and that "we have not yet reached the top of the mountain."

But British officials, while pointing to the hard work which was still needed, cautiously agreed that this latest round of pre-Brussels consultations had been "fruitful and interesting."

Britain has refused to endorse a plan to raise fresh funds for the Community by contributing more VAT takings, at least until two other demands have been met. One is for a curb on agricultural spending and the other is for a "safety net" which would limit the net contributions which any one country has to pay into the EEC.

The Chancellor has had similar meetings with his Italian, Dutch, Belgian and French counterparts - amid speculation over a Franco-German secret deal which would be presented to Mrs Thatcher as a fait accompli.

Bonn seeks formula to extricate Stoph's niece

From Michael Blayon Bonn

Intensive efforts have been going on behind the scenes here and in West Berlin over the past two days to find a formula allowing the niece of Herr Stoph, the East German Prime Minister, to leave the West German Embassy in Prague with her family for West Germany.

On Tuesday, Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, Social Democratic parliamentary leader,



War and peace: The scene of devastation yesterday in Beirut (left) where a car bomb killed at least two people, wounding more than 50, contrasting with the smiling greeting in Damascus as President Assad of Syria met President Gemayel of Lebanon.

Conquering hero's welcome for PLO leader

From Christopher Walker Amman

More than 40 prominent West Bankers, including five mayors, have defied an Israeli warning and presented Mr Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, with a petition urging the PLO to agree to a co-ordinated stand with Jordan's King Hussein.

The meeting, which took place at the heavily guarded guest palace here, has posed a severe dilemma for the Israeli occupation authorities. They will have to decide what to do if any, to impose on some of these most moderate West Bank leaders who, according to Brigadier Benjamin Eliezer, co-ordinator of policy in the region, have broken the law.

The emergence of such a wide body of West Bank opinion in support of an agreement may strengthen Mr Arafat's hand against radical opponents, even within his own Fatah organization, who are opposed to any watering-down of the PLO's

normally rigid stance on Israel's right to exist.

Among those who met Mr Arafat were Mr Elias Freij, Mayor of Bethlehem; Mr Anwar Al Khatib, a former governor of Jerusalem; and Mr Mahmud Abu Zuhayr, publisher of the largest selling newspaper in the West Bank.

Although the petition did not contain specific plans for a new Jordanian/PLO peace initiative, many of its supporters are in favour of reciprocal recognition between the PLO and Israel and the acceptance by Mr Arafat of the key UN Resolution 242.

Mr Freij, the central figure in the powerful campaign being mounted here to push Mr Arafat towards moderation, has seen a recent switch in West Bank opinion behind his call for urgent peace talks with Israel. "For many months I was the only voice, but now I have a full choir behind me," he said. "The time for the Palestinians is running out fast as the Jews are seizing all our land."

The Mayor predicted that an

agreement in principle would emerge from the talks between King Hussein and the PLO chief.

These will then continue intermittently over the coming weeks in an attempt to agree a joint approach towards the peace process.

Mr Arafat's reception in Jordan had been one rather of conquering hero than a man who had recently suffered ignominious expulsion from Lebanon.



Yasser Arafat: petitioned



Defiant West Bank mayors meet Arafat

Israel's latest Lebanon dead bring toll to 571

From Moshe Brillant, Tel Aviv

Military funerals were held yesterday in Hadera and Ness Ziona for the two latest casualties in Israel's venture in Lebanon.

The victims, Sergeant Mordechai Shkedi, aged 48, and Private Nissim Bitan, aged 35, were reservists; they were killed on Tuesday in an ambush. Their deaths brought the armed forces toll since the invasion in June, 1982, to 571.

Gammes, hiding in the wooded, rocky slope over a deep ravine four miles north-east of Nabatiya, launched a bazooka rocket and fired Kalashnikov rifles at two Jeeps that had crossed a bridge and entered a ravine. The victims were in the second Jeep.

The gammas abandoned their rifles and bazooka launcher

Financier accused of insulting the King

From Richard Wigg Madrid

Señor José María Ruiz Mateos, creator of the former Rumasa business empire which was taken over by the Spanish Government a year ago, has been ordered by a Madrid court to stand trial for "criminally insulting" King Juan Carlos.

The charge arose from an interview given late last year by the Jerez-born financier to *Actualidad Económica*, a Madrid business weekly, in which he criticized the King for "finishing him off" by signing the decree under which the Socialist Government expropriated Rumasa.

In the interview, according to the prosecutor, Señor Ruiz Mateos also sought to implicate the King in alleged financial irregularities designed to get rid of a high official at the Bank of Spain.

The expropriation was immediately approved by the Spanish Parliament and upheld last December by the Constitutional Court. Lawyers have pointed out that, as a constitutional monarch, the acts of King Juan Carlos are inviolable.

The Madrid court issued search and capture orders against Señor Ruiz Mateos, who went to live in London shortly after the expropriation. According to Madrid press reports, he has not been seen at his London home for the past five days.

The state prosecutor-general, Señor Luis Buro, said yesterday that if the Government sought the financier's extradition from Britain it had to be reasonably sure of success. An extradition treaty between the two countries lapsed in the 1960s.

Señor Ruiz Mateos already faced charges before the Madrid court for alleged financial crimes.

Way of death in Brazil's slums

From Patrick Knight, São Paulo

The fire which killed at least 83 people near the port of Santos on Saturday night, when 150,000 gallons of petrol leaked from a pipeline exploded and burst a 100-yard-wide swathe a mile long through a shantytown built over it, illustrates the precarious life of millions of families now living in such places in Brazil.

In a similar incident in Bahia state last August, 99 people lost their lives when petrol which had been leaking from a train derailed on a line passing through a shantytown caught fire 12 hours after the leak began. People collecting petrol to sell were killed when the whole area burst into flames.

In Saturday's incident, the leak was first noticed by residents in the shantytown, where 8,000 people live, at about 10.30pm and a policeman

arrested a man collecting petrol from a public tank. But valves controlling the line were not turned off until 12.30.

The explosion, which caused a fire lasting all night, occurred shortly afterwards. Apart from the dead, 30 were seriously burnt, and many are not expected to survive.

The town of Cubatão, where the explosion occurred, has become famous as one of the most polluted in the world. Wedged between the sea and the 3,000-foot plateau on which São Paulo city stands, 26 large factories, mostly having oil as their base product, spew 60 tons of toxic waste each day over a series of favelas where 15,000 people live.

A third of those living in the area have severe respiratory problems.

With Brazil's cities having

doubled in size over the past few years, millions of unqualified migrants have no alternative but to squat in shacks built on land which nobody else wants.

More than a million people now live in a thousand shanty towns in São Paulo city alone, compared with a quarter that number in 1970. Squashed between railways and roads, on riverbanks, or built, as is the case of the shanty town destroyed at the weekend, on stilts over sinking bog and marsh, or on mudflats left dry at low tide, the dwellers are specially vulnerable to the sort of industrial disaster which occurred at the weekend.

Many of them are also suffering directly the effects of increasing river and sea pollution which has accompanied Brazil's industrial development.

Revival of British car industry hailed

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Huge investment in new models, new plant, new technology and new shop-floor attitudes are contributing to the renaissance of the British motor industry, according to Mr Geoffrey Moore, deputy president of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders speaking in Geneva last night.

As the host at a reception on the eve of the International Motor Show there, he said British car production increased by 17.7 per cent from 880,000 in 1982 to 1,045,000 in 1983.

He said the new confidence was well founded: "Our customers are coming back to us, and new investment is flowing into the industry. The days of unfulfilled deliveries, unscheduled production stoppages,

delayed launches of sometimes long-promised new models are past, and our customers recognize that."

Several important new models would emerge later in the year, helping the industry to fight back against imports, a fight that began last year when British-produced cars took a bigger share of a record home market and reversed the import trend of the previous 15 years.

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delayed launches of sometimes long-promised new models are past, and our customers recognize that."

Europe's timid step into future

From Ian Murray Brussels

The EEC yesterday took a first timid but profoundly significant step into the future of new technology and away from its agriculturally dominated past.

It did so through a long-awaited decision to spend a modest £457m over the next five years on information technology, that fast moving sector where the average life of a product is a mere three years. By coincidence the money is the same as the last British rebate from the Community.

The decision was taken yesterday because Britain was at last satisfied that the money was really available to fund the programme, whatever happens in the current arguments over how to reform the Community.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the British minister, said: "It is not just a trade off between milk and high technology." The money would be made available from the funds already set aside for research.

The new scheme is called Esprit, a spirited French acronym for the powerful English version, European Strategic Programme for Research and Development in Information Technologies.

The underlying aim of the project is to combine the talents of the EEC to create a European new technology capable of taking on the efforts of Japan and the United States.

In pilot projects for the scheme, which were started two and a half years ago when Britain was in the chair of the Council of Ministers, British firms have taken a dominant position. They are project leaders in 11 of the 38 ideas under trial, compared with eight in West Germany and seven from France. British companies are involved in no less than 21 of all the projects.

Esprit is in itself a prototype of the kind of trans-frontier cooperation which the EEC is meant to be all about.

Plessey, GEC and Newcastle and Southampton Universities from Britain; Thomson and Montpellier University from France; and Telefunken from West Germany, for example, will all combine their skills and knowledge in one project, British Leyland, Trinity College, Dublin, and two Dutch colleges will work together in another.

"Europe should not have an inferiority complex about high technology," Mr Baker said. In fibre optics it was well ahead of Japan and the United States. Britain was ahead in hand-held television sets and gaining sales in the small radar equipment market.

This shows that Britain and Europe are not prepared to give up and this is very important," Mr Baker said.

All the EEC money will have to be matched exactly by money provided by the industries involved.

Death toll in Nigeria riots reaches 102

Lagos (AP) - The death toll in Muslim riots has risen to 102, the News Agency of Nigeria reported yesterday as calm returned to the city of Jimeta in north-eastern Nigeria.

Major-General Mohammed Buhari, the military leader, flew from Lagos to Jimeta and Yola yesterday to assess the damage. The fighting started on Monday when members of the banned Maitatsine Muslim sect escaped from police, marched on the main market and "destroyed whatever they saw on the way," the news agency reported.

The ferocity of Maitatsine fighting comes from the members' belief that they can be made invulnerable by a "magic dust" which they apply when facing police in riots.

D-day site

Paris (AP) - France formerly coded the US site at Utah Beach for a 24ft granite obelisk to all the Allied troops who fought in the 1944 D-Day landings and subsequent battle to free Normandy.

Kenya airman accused of leading failed coup

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

Air Force Private Hezekiah Ochuka, the alleged leader of the abortive coup attempt here in August 1982, appeared before a court martial yesterday and denied a charge of treason.

The charge, which carries the death sentence, alleges that Ochuka led the attempt by members of the Kenya Air Force to overthrow the government, that he directed the seizure of the radio station here and the broadcasting of announcements of the overthrow, that he ordered Air Force planes to bomb State House and other targets in Nairobi, and that he wore the uniform of a lieutenant-colonel.

The court martial, at Langata Barracks on the outskirts of Nairobi, adjourned the hearing. Private Ochuka commanded an Air Force plane when

loyal troops put down the coup attempt, and fled to Tanzania where he was granted political asylum. When he appeared in a Tanzanian court to oppose a Kenyan application for his extradition, Ochuka said he was the leader of the "provisional government" of Kenya.

Last November the Kenyan, Tanzanian and Ugandan Presidents met in Arusha, northern Tanzania, and agreed that fugitives from one East African country should not be able to seek asylum in another.

● **Holocaust report:** A local councillor, Mr Sughal Unshur, from Wafir, North-eastern Kenya, said here that over 300 members of the Degodia tribe had died and another 1,000 were missing after being rounded up by police and troops following inter-tribal clashes.

18 killed as US plane crashes in storm

Madrid - Seventeen American servicemen were killed on Monday night when a Hercules C130 transporter crashed during a severe snow storm in a mountainous area of Aragon, Saragossa. Rescue teams yesterday located the wreckage and recovered 15 bodies.

A Spanish Air Force captain who had been acting as an observer also died.

The aircraft was dropping supplies during joint US / Spanish exercises. The crash apparently occurred just before the men were to make a parachute descent. The Americans, six of them officers, were from the Ramstein US base in West Germany.

Hongkong puts up taxes

Hongkong (Reuters) - Hongkong, recently rocked by riots and a taxi-drivers' strike, yesterday announced higher taxes for its wealthy minority in an effort to cover a big budget deficit.

This will affect about 30,000 of the colony's 5.3 million people, including almost all foreigners, and will also hit big companies.

Kidnap arrests

Paris (Reuters) - Two Dutchmen suspected of kidnapping the Dutch brewing millionaire Mr Freddie Heineken in Amsterdam last November were detained yesterday in Paris. Three others are being held in Amsterdam.

Paris lay-offs

Paris (AFP) - The daily *France Soir* has announced plans to lay off almost a quarter of its staff. Owned by M Robert Hersant, it has a circulation of about 400,000 but has lost revenue from a sharp fall in classified advertising.

Killer executed

Angola, Louisiana (AP) - A convicted murderer, Johnny Taylor, aged 30, was executed in Louisiana's electric chair yesterday, the second prisoner to be put to death in the state in less than three months.

Afghans jailed

Delhi (AP) - An Afghan special court convicted two insurgent leaders of sedition and sentenced them to jail for 20 years and 10 years respectively. Kabul radio reported.

Narrow escape

New York (AFP) - A dozen people suffered minor injuries on Tuesday when a Scandinavian Airlines DC 10 skidded off a runway at Kennedy Airport and came to a halt with its nose in water. There were 163 passengers on board.

Party choice

Madrid - Signor Ciriaco de Mita was re-elected secretary of the Christian Democrats, Italy's biggest political party, but his main opponent, Signor Vincenzo Scotti, surprised most delegates by taking about 30 per cent of the vote.

Everest search

Seattle (AFP) Sixteen American mountaineers plan to climb Mount Everest in an attempt to discover what happened to two British climbers who disappeared there 60 years ago. They intend to follow the route used by George Leigh Mallory and Andrew Irvine, mysteriously lost in 1924.

Death sentence

Yrounde (BP) - A military court sentenced former Cameroon President Ahmadou Ahidjo to death in absentia for planning to overthrow the government of his hand-picked successor, President Paul Biya. Two of his former aides, who were in court, were also sentenced to death.

Detainees freed

Islamabad - Mir Ghous Baksh Bizenjo and Sardar Sherbaz Mazari, two of the principal opposition leaders of the 10-party Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD), were released in Karachi within 24 hours of each other, after several months of detention.

Mourners stung

Nairobi (AFP) - A funeral in the port town of Mombasa was interrupted for nearly three hours when mourners were attacked by a swarm of bees. One man was badly stung.

Robber's slip

Ankara - Five gunmen robbed a branch of a state-owned bank in Istanbul of 21m lira (about £46,000). One of the raiders slipped up by addressing two of the women clerks by their names, suggesting an inside job.

ADVERTISEMENT

The Arts in danger

Pat Abraham
PAT ABRAHAM

Maria Aitken
MARIA AITKEN

John Alderton
JOHN ALDERTON

Brian Aldiss
BRIAN ALDISS

Lindsay Anderson
LINDSAY ANDERSON

Harry Andrews
HARRY ANDREWS

Alan Ayckbourn
ALAN AYCKBOURN

Robin Bailey
ROBIN BAILEY

Janet Baker
DAME JANET BAKER

Tom Baker
TOM BAKER

Joan Bakewell
JOAN BAKEWELL

Peter Barkworth
PETER BARKWORTH

Clive Barnes
CLIVE BARNES

Alan Bates
ALAN BATES

Quentin Bell
QUENTIN BELL

Jim Bennett
JILL BENNETT

Stanley Bernstein
LORD BERNSTEIN

Michael Blakemore
MICHAEL BLAKEMORE

Robert Bolt
ROBERT BOLT

Peter Bowles
PETER BOWLES

Lord Brabourne
LORD BRABOURNE

Malcolm Bradbury
MALCOLM BRADBURY

Melvin Bragg
MELVYN BRAGG

Richard Briers
RICHARD BRIERS

Eleanor Bron
ELEANOR BRON

Brigid Brophy
BRIGID BROPHY

Peter Brook
PETER BROOK

Michael Bryant
MICHAEL BRYANT

Vincent Burke
VINCENT BURKE

Humphrey Burton
HUMPHREY BURTON

James Cameron
JAMES CAMERON

Sir Hugh Casson
SIR HUGH CASSON

Julie Christie
JULIE CHRISTIE

Michael Codron
MICHAEL CODRON

George Cole
GEORGE COLE

Jilly Cooper
JILLY COOPER

Hunter Davies
HUNTER DAVIES

Colin Davis
SIR COLIN DAVIS

John Dexter
JOHN DEXTER

Jonathan Dimbleby
JONATHAN DIMBLEBY

Christopher Dunkley
CHRISTOPHER DUNKLEY

Paul Eddington
PAUL EDDINGTON

Harold Evans
HAROLD EVANS

Sir Roger Falk
SIR ROGER FALK

Frank Finlay
FRANK FINLAY

Albert Finney
ALBERT FINNEY

Susan Fleetwood
SUSAN FLEETWOOD

Bruce Forsyth
BRUCE FORSYTH

John Fowles
JOHN FOWLES

Michael Frayn
MICHAEL FRAYN

John Gielgud
SIR JOHN GIELGUD

Peter Gill
PETER GILL

Jack Gold
JACK GOLD

Sir Charles Groves
SIR CHARLES GROVES

Peter Hall
SIR PETER HALL

Susan Hampshire
SUSAN HAMPSHIRE

Christopher Hampton
CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON

Robert Hardy
ROBERT HARDY

David Hare
DAVID HARE

Alastair Hetherington
ALASTAIR HETHERINGTON

Ludovick Kennedy
LUDOVICK KENNEDY

Verity Lambert
VERITY LAMBERT

Dinsdale Landen
DINSDALE LANDEN

Doris Lessing
DORIS LESSING

Joseph Losey
JOSEPH LOSEY

Bill McAlister
BILL MCALISTER

Roger McGough
ROGER MCGOUGH

Sir Claus Moser
SIR CLAUD MOSER

Frank Muir
FRANK MUIR

Riccardo Muti
RICCARDO MUTI

Peter Nichols
PETER NICHOLS

Lord Norwich
LORD NORWICH

Lord Olivier
LORD OLIVIER

Joan Plowright
JOAN PLOWRIGHT

Tony Palmer
TONY PALMER

Alan Parker
ALAN PARKER

Sir Peter Pears
SIR PETER PEARS

Ronald Pickup
RONALD PICKUP

Harold Pinter
HAROLD PINTER

Eric Porter
ERIC PORTER

Dillys Powell
DILLYS POWELL

Robert Powell
ROBERT POWELL

Jonathan Pryce
JONATHAN PRYCE

Frederic Raphael
FREDERIC RAPHAEL

Ian Richardson
IAN RICHARDSON

Tony Richardson
TONY RICHARDSON

Sir Brian Rix
SIR BRIAN RIX

Nicolas Roeg
NICOLAS ROEG

Ken Russell
KEN RUSSELL

Willy Russell
WILLY RUSSELL

Prunella Scales
PRUNELLA SCALES

Ronnie Scott
RONNIE SCOTT

Sir Harry Secombe
SIR HARRY SECOMBE

Martin Shaw
MARTIN SHAW

Ned Sherrin
NED SHERRIN

Georg Solth
SIR GEORG SOLTH

Johnny Speight
JOHNNY SPEIGHT

Norman St John-Stevas
NORMAN ST JOHN-STEVAS

Janet Suzman
JANET SUZMAN

Bob Swash
BOB SWASH

Michael Tippett
SIR MICHAEL TIPPETT

John Tooley
SIR JOHN TOOLEY

Felix Trapp
FELIX TRAPP

Donald Treford
DONALD TREFORD

Ian Wallace
IAN WALLACE

David Warner
DAVID WARNER

Gerry Weiss
GERRY WEISS

Timothy West
TIMOTHY WEST

John Williams
JOHN WILLIAMS

Malcolm Williamson
MALCOLM WILLIAMSON

Michael Winner
MICHAEL WINNER

Peter Wood
PETER WOOD

Edward Woodward
EDWARD WOODWARD

Michael York
MICHAEL YORK

Susannah York
SUSANNAH YORK

THE ARTS IN DANGER

We the undersigned view with the gravest alarm the Government's proposals for the arts in the event of the abolition of the Greater London Council and the Metropolitan County Councils. These proposals list only 16 bodies whose survival appears to be of some concern to the Government; 6 museums, 3 orchestras and the London Orchestral Concert Board, 2 theatres, 2 opera companies, 1 ballet company, and the South Bank Arts complex in London. Nine are based in London and seven outside it. However, even in these cases, no promise is made that present levels of funding by local government will be maintained.

For the many hundreds of other arts bodies, of all sizes, supported by the GLC and the Metropolitan County Councils there is no comfort. They must look to borough and district councils for their future support.

For decades the general pattern of support for the arts from borough and district councils has been unpredictable, and in some cases hopelessly inadequate. With today's constraints on local government expenditure it is doubtful if such councils will be able to replace the money for the arts which the Government now intends to remove from the GLC and the Metropolitan County Councils.

The Government's proposals constitute an unprecedented attack upon the arts which will diminish the quality of life in this country, and with it our claim to be accounted a civilised society.

We call upon the Government to reassure the thousands of artists in this country, and the millions who constitute their audiences, that it will not cause any further reduction in the already inadequate funding of the arts in Britain.

Sam Haskins
SAM HASKINS

Richard Hoggart
RICHARD HOGGART

Tom Hopkinson
SIR TOM HOPKINSON

Richard Horden
SIR MICHAEL HORDERN

John Hurt
JOHN HURT

Derek Jacobi
DEREK JACOBI

Gemma Jones
GEMMA JONES

Miriam Karlin
MIRIAM KARLIN

Arthur Marshall
ARTHUR MARSHALL

Francis Matthews
FRANCIS MATTHEWS

George Melly
GEORGE MELLY

Lord Miles
LORD MILES

Warren Mitchell
WARREN MITCHELL

Henry Moore
HENRY MOORE

Eric Morecambe
ERIC MORECAMBE

Sheridan Morley
SHERIDAN MORLEY

John Mortimer
JOHN MORTIMER

Frederic Raphael
FREDERIC RAPHAEL

Ian Richardson
IAN RICHARDSON

Tony Richardson
TONY RICHARDSON

Sir Brian Rix
SIR BRIAN RIX

Nicolas Roeg
NICOLAS ROEG

Ken Russell
KEN RUSSELL

Willy Russell
WILLY RUSSELL

Timothy West
TIMOTHY WEST

John Williams
JOHN WILLIAMS

Malcolm Williamson
MALCOLM WILLIAMSON

Michael Winner
MICHAEL WINNER

Peter Wood
PETER WOOD

Edward Woodward
EDWARD WOODWARD

Michael York
MICHAEL YORK

Susannah York
SUSANNAH YORK

Published by the Greater London Council.

Soviet book drives French Communists into patriotic outburst

From Diana Giddes, Paris



M. Marchais: All French citizens are French.

A new sign of cooler relations between the French Communist Party and the Soviet Union came with the publication yesterday of a letter from M. Marchais to the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, in which the French party leader strongly backs "the ridiculous and hateful allegations" made about French in a new Russian book entitled *Populations of the World*.

The letter, whose text is published in full in yesterday's *Humanité*, the official French Communist Party newspaper, presses the party's "great indignation" at claims by the book's author that the population of France could be divided "on the one hand into those whom he calls 'the French', and who according to him total 44 million, that is 82.5 per cent of the total population, and on the other hand — and quote — into Alsacians, Bretons, Basques, Catalans, Corsicans, Jews, Armenians, Gypsies and others."

"In the same chapter," the Marchais letter goes on, "other claims of the same type are made, such as: 'The people of Alsace-Lorraine are related to the Germans'. We protest with indignation against these ridiculous and hateful allegations. For us, as for all citizens of our country, every man and every woman of French nationality is French."

"France is not a multinational state; it is one nation, one people, the product of a long history. Any attempt based on haphazard criteria to divide the French people into various ethnic groups is a defiling act, not purely French, but certainly of the French community, is an offense against our national consciousness."

Concluding the letter with "fraternal greetings" to his "dear comrades", M. Marchais says that he "naturally" intends to make its contents public, given that the book has been published in France.

M. Marchais's outspoken attack could, of course, be seen simply as an adroit attempt to pre-empt criticism from other quarters. But the language is unnecessarily severe, and it comes soon after another apparent deliberate snub to the new Soviet leadership.

The French Communist Party was virtually the only Western Communist party not to send Mr. Chernenko a telegram of congratulations on his accession to power.

A party delegation, headed by M. Marchais went to Moscow for Andropov's funeral, and M. Marchais was given pride of place during the ceremony, immediately behind the delegations from the Communist countries. But he was not received by Mr. Chernenko, as he had been by Andropov at the time of Brezhnev's funeral.

It is no secret here that the French Communist Party

viewed with some dismay the arrival in power of a man strongly identified with Brezhnev, and hence with the kind of hard-line communism from which the French Communists have been trying to dissociate themselves, if only for the sake of their internal electoral image.

The stance of progressive reformer adopted by Andropov was much more to their liking. Indirect harsh criticism of the Brezhnev era (and by implication of those associated with him) was given in an unusually strong-worded article in *L'Humanité*, published after Andropov's death but before Mr. Chernenko's nomination, in which the paper's Moscow correspondent compared unfavourably the situation in the Soviet Union at the time of Brezhnev's death in November, 1982, with the situation only 15 months later left by Andropov.

When Andropov took over, "the country seemed to be running out of breath," *Humanité* said. Economic growth was flagging; consumer goods at prices workers could afford were increasingly scarce; the political life of the nation seemed to be stuck in a rut; and scandals were beginning to hit the headlines. Fifteen months later things had changed, as a result of the "enormous and important" reforms introduced by Andropov.

Even before Andropov's death, the French Communists had given other unusual public displays of displeasure and irritation with their Soviet comrades, such as their criticism of the Russians for sending a delegation in January to the first national congress of the breakaway Spanish Communist Party group, and M. Marchais's call in a recent television interview for the rehabilitation of Khrushchev by the Russians.



Saint or sinner: The Sikh militant leader, Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, sporting a .32 calibre revolver, a four-foot sword and a spear despite his 37 years, addresses a crowd of his supporters at the historic Golden Temple in Amritsar. Bhindranwale is called a "sant" or saint, by his followers and a terrorist by the Indian Government, which is trying vainly to quell growing violence as the Sikh campaign for independence for the Punjab gathers force.

At least three people were killed and 35 wounded in Amritsar yesterday when a grenade thrown by a suspected Sikh

militant exploded at a Hindu temple crowded to celebrate *Shivratri*, an important religious festival. Women and children were among the victims.

Police repeatedly fired into the air and used tear gas and batons to disperse a crowd that attacked them with bricks after the explosion.

Before the blast, Punjab and its neighbour state Haryana had enjoyed relative calm after a fortnight of Hindu-Sikh violence which had left 80 dead, more than 300 wounded and more than 80 Sikh militants behind bars.

Train ambush likely to lose Salvador guerrillas support

From John Carlin, San Antonio Grande

The guerrillas' new political-military offensive, announced on Monday to coincide with the run-up to the presidential elections on March 23, has got off to an unfortunate start.

A military action in which eight civilians were killed appears to have set back the guerrillas' vigorous propaganda campaign aimed at discrediting the US-backed Salvadorean Government generally and the upcoming elections in particular.

The guerrillas ambushed a train with 50 civilians and 20 soldiers on board some 40 miles north of the San Salvador on Monday evening. The driver brought the train to a halt, he said, after two mines went off in the track ahead. There followed an hour-long fight with automatic rifles and machine guns at the end of which eight civilians were found dead in the bullet-riddled end carriage of the train.

According to the Defence Ministry, eight soldiers were killed and seven injured. The guerrillas appeared to have suffered no casualties and the rebels Radio Farabundo Martí claimed on Tuesday that they had captured 20 powerful G3 automatic rifles in the action as well as 5,000 rounds of ammunition.

The attack took place in a dusty, desolate piece of countryside, near the small town of San Antonio Grande. The scene that greeted reporters there on Tuesday was horrifying. The bodies of two men, four women and two children were lying on the floor

of a railway carriage under the wooden seats, untouched for 15 hours, apparently so that reporters could broadcast the guerrillas' deed to more dramatic effect.

The soldiers' corpses had been removed, however, as the military authorities here are never too eager to publicize their own casualties.

After the television cameras had duly recorded the gruesome scene soldiers carried the bodies out and laid them on the ground side by side.

At that point one young woman suddenly realized that her eight-year-old son was among the dead. She wept bitterly, shouting "damn the guerrillas", before her son's sheet-wrapped body.

A little distance away a half-naked boy was playing alone. "My mother died on the train", he said. He who did not know how old he was though he did know that his name was Mario.

The guerrillas have always been careful to maintain as clean a human rights record as possible, given their claim to be fighting "a people's war", and it has usually been the Army that has been accused of committing atrocities against civilians.

In the propaganda war, the guerrillas have clearly lost points after Monday's action. The army will be glad to have evidence to provide to the US Congress, increasingly sceptical lately of claims of progress in the field of human rights in El Salvador, that the guerrillas too can play dirty in this war.

Kissinger wants Europe to take over Nato

From Mohsin Ali, Washington



Dr Kissinger: "Wise and thoughtful Carrington".

Dr Henry Kissinger, the former secretary of state, has proposed that by 1990 Western Europe should assume the major responsibility for its conventional ground defence.

In a 7,000-word article in *Time* magazine, in which he proposes the sweeping reshaping of Nato, Dr Kissinger says that a European officer should take the traditionally American place as Supreme Allied Commander, probably with a United States deputy.

He also suggests that in the new structure, with its greater emphasis on political coordination, it would make more sense for an American to become Nato secretary-general whenever Lord Carrington decided to retire.

Meantime, "no Western leader is better qualified for guiding Nato's transition than the wise and thoughtful Carrington". Lord Carrington is to succeed Dr Joseph Luns, as secretary-general of the 16-nation alliance.

Western Europe should take over those arms control negotiations that deal with weapons stationed on European soil. The Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces (INF) negotiations and the Mutual Balanced Force Reductions (MBFR) talks should be "Europeanized" as quickly as possible, with a European chairman, an American deputy and a mixed, though predominantly European delegation.

Dr Kissinger's thesis is that after 35 years of preserving peace in Western Europe, the Atlantic alliance — confronted new military, political and social realities.

He says that to give new meaning to Western unity, there

should be a more significant role for Western Europe within Nato, deployment.

Dr Kissinger argues that if Europe by its own decision condemned itself to permanent conventional inferiority, "We will have no choice but to opt for a deployment of United States forces in Europe that makes strategic and political sense."

If nuclear weapons remained the ultimate deterrent to even conventional attack, a gradual withdrawal of a substantial portion, perhaps up to half, of the present United States ground forces would be a logical result. Such a withdrawal could be extended over five years.

The State Department has not commented on Dr Kissinger's specific proposals, but said that the United States believed that the Nato alliance was healthy, that its structure was sound and that its strategy was valid and viable.

It said that views such as Dr Kissinger's represented his own thinking and were a constructive contribution to the healthy consideration of security concerns.

Farm ministers ooze goodwill and aid

From Ian Murray, Brussels

EEC farm ministers ended their intense two-day negotiating session in Brussels on Tuesday evening oozing goodwill along with an inexpressible confidence in their ability to sort out major Community problems by the middle of next month.

While making no discernible progress on the complex reform dossier they must agree if the European summit on March 19 and 20 is not to fail, the ministers were in such a good mood that they agreed to give aid to tens of thousands of poor farmers in the less-favoured areas (LEA), to approve aid to hill farmers for another six months and to allow New Zealand butter to continue to be landed in Britain.

These three issues are all contentious and have been blocked consistently by one country or another for months. Agreement on them, however provisional, delighted Mr. Michael Jopling, the British minister. He had campaigned for the LEA for 20 years, he said, and "this is a great day for me".

The deal would mean Community help for 28,000 more British farmers, raising 1 million ewes and 100,000 cows between them and meant that nearly a third of the agricultural land in the United Kingdom now qualified for EEC help.

As far as the main package

of Community reform was concerned, there were less positive signs of progress, but Mr. Jopling was far from being alone in predicting that an overall agreement would be possible by the time the agriculture ministers get through the four more scheduled days and long nights of negotiation left before the summit.

Michel Rocard, the French Minister, who is chairing the sessions, again promised that the council would have ready for the summit a package of technicalities and ready for the heads of Government to debate politically. It was largely because they became bogged down in technicalities that the EEC leaders failed to make any progress at the last summit, in Athens.

There is still nothing like agreement on any of the main issues, but there are encouraging signs.

The council — with the inevitable exception of Greece — now seems prepared to accept that there must be a price freeze on almost all agricultural products for the year ahead.

The most difficult and complex issue is Green currency rates, which protect farmers from real currency fluctuations. There is growing support for West German proposals to subsidize ending the system, at a cost of about £250m a year.

Net closes on General Galtieri

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

General Leopoldo Galtieri was placed under "rigorous" arrest on Tuesday as the military court trying the officers who led Argentina into conflict moved one step closer to convicting him. The Supreme Council of the armed forces, which first arrested General Galtieri on February 21, ordered him placed under a stricter category of detention, indicating that it has found evidence to suggest he is guilty as accused.

The change in General Galtieri's status, primarily an administrative measure, implies that he will be transferred to a military prison.

The 14 former military leaders being court-martialled in the Falklands case are accused of crimes ranging from negligence to failing to provide assistance to friendly troops, and General Galtieri and three others could theoretically face the death penalty if convicted.

Admiral Jorge Anaya, the former navy commander who was one of the principal advocates of the original invasion, faces similar charges, and the Supreme Council must decide within a day or two whether to place him under "rigorous preventive detention" as well.

The former Air Force commander, Brigadier Basilio Lami Dozo and Admiral Anaya were placed under the more benign category of "Preventive Detention" last week.

Hunger strikes worry Solidarity

From Our Correspondent, Warsaw

Solidarity underground leaders have appealed for international pressure to be put on Poland's communist authorities "to protect the lives and health" of political prisoners.

Signed by the four-man Provisional Coordinating Committee and dated February 23 the appeal expressed

particular concern about Mr. Janusz Palubicki, a Solidarity leader and university teacher from Poznan in western Poland. Mr. Palubicki was "in agony" after refusing food for many weeks in Silesia Prison in southern Poland.

Dozens of Solidarity activists have been on sporadic hunger

strikes since December in prisons in Strzelin, Birczewo and Braniewo.

The protesters have demanded that the authorities recognize their status as political prisoners and improve access to books and family visits.



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28	27	£72,598	£92,825	not available	not available
29	28	£75,023	£96,410	not available	not available
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31	30	£79,850	£103,987	not available	not available
32	31	£82,347	£107,980	not available	not available
33	32	£84,897	£112,113	not available	not available
34	33	£87,500	£116,392	not available	not available
35	34	£90,155	£120,823	not available	not available
36	35	£92,862	£125,413	not available	not available
37	36	£95,621	£130,169	not available	not available
38	37	£98,432	£135,098	not available	not available
39	38	£101,294	£140,198	not available	not available
40	39	£104,207	£145,475	not available	not available
41	40	£107,171	£150,926	not available	not available
42	41	£110,185	£156,559	not available	not available
43	42	£113,248	£162,372	not available	not available
44	43	£116,360	£168,373	not available	not available
45	44	£119,520	£174,561	not available	not available
46	45	£122,728	£180,935	not available	not available
47	46	£125,984	£187,494	not available	not available
48	47	£129,287	£194,237	not available	not available
49	48	£132,637	£201,164	not available	not available
50	49	£136,034	£208,284	not available	not available
51	50	£139,477	£215,596	not available	not available
52	51	£142,965	£223,099	not available	not available
53	52	£146,498	£230,792	not available	not available
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Technology in Wales

A look at the efforts being made in the Principality to attract and nourish 'sunrise' industries

Question Why did the Parrot Corporation choose Wales as the location for establishing Britain's first totally integrated floppy disc manufacturing unit?

Answer Because the hard-headed American businessmen behind the company discovered the Principality could offer the best deal.

The decision by Parrot, which hopes to create more than 450 jobs, illustrates dramatically the benefits that Wales can offer to inward investors from both sides of the Atlantic. Before deciding on Wales, the company considered locations in the Silicon Valley, California, the Irish Republic and several European countries.

None of them could match the package and the result is a £7m project for Wales that is likely to be one of the biggest start-up venture capital deals seen in either Europe or the United States this year.

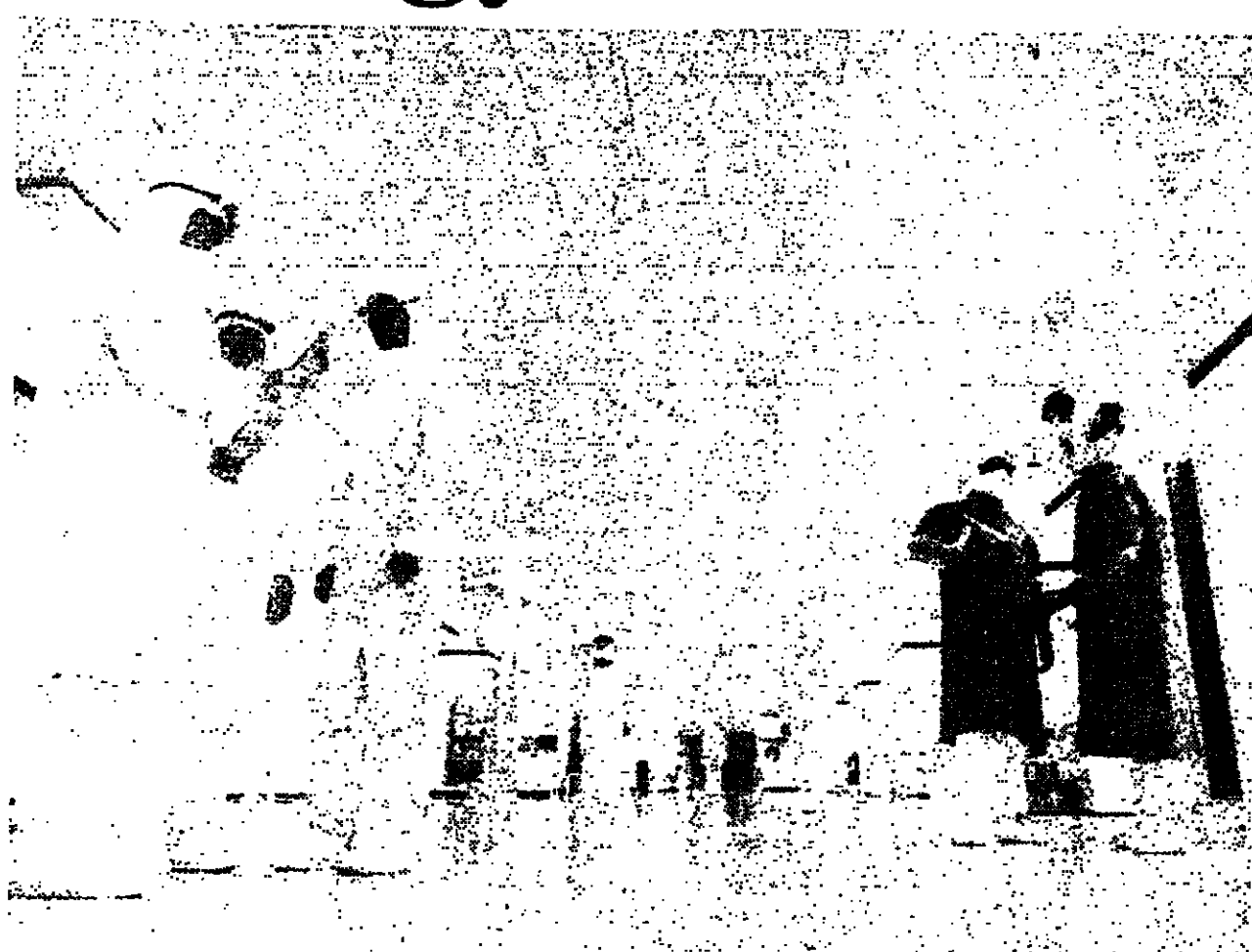
Frank Peters, the company's managing director, said it was the availability of the Welsh Development Agency led investment package that clinched the decision.

The agency put up a £1m equity investment and was instrumental in negotiating the rest of the financial deal with City investors. Before embarking on the venture, the agency followed its usual practice of putting the company, the men behind it and the market under expert examination.

When it is ready, Parrot will move into a purpose-built 57,000 square feet production facility designed and built by the Agency on a five-acre site on Cwmbran Development Corporation's high technology park. From that base, it aims to capture eight per cent of the international market with a production of some 50 million disc units a year.

The company will join a remarkable concentration of advanced technology ventures in south east Wales, including Amersham International, Control Data, Ferranti, Immos and Mitel. Further west along the M4 motorway Sony has just celebrated the production of the millionth television set at its Bridgend factory.

In North Wales, other com-



Cleaner than clean: white-coated workers at Immos at Newport, Gwent, in the 'clean room', said to be ten times cleaner than an operating theatre

panies have followed the lead of such market leaders as Pilkington Fibre-Optic Technologies Ltd. and are moving in to capitalize on the package that can be provided by the agency and Clwyd County Council.

California based Saga Systems has acquired a major stake in Wilcox Computers Ltd., of Wrexham and on the same Agency industrial estate, Inter-magnetics (UK) Ltd., has become only the fifth company in Europe to obtain a VHS licence from the Victor Company of Japan.

Investments running into millions

Other companies in Clwyd, such as Kronospan, high technology producers of chipboard have felt confident enough to invest millions of pounds into their plants in the Principality. Pilkington Fibre-Optic, which has just moved into a new 25,000 square foot building near Rhyl has recently won a

£500,000 commission from a French company to design and produce opto-electronic sensors to read French lottery tickets.

In Mid Wales, with its easy access to the midlands, smaller companies are thriving, backed and guided by Mid Wales Development which has initiated a wide range of industrial and social projects.

Companies are discovering it is possible to combine high technology operations within a beautiful rural area which offers a life style city dwellers can only envy. From the great and recent deindustrialization of its traditional heavy base industrial backbone of steel and coal, the Principality has quickly emerged as a technology friendly location. Foreign based companies in Wales now employ far more people than the National Coal Board and British Steel combined.

These companies did not come because the managing director liked rugby. Serious people with heavy responsibilities only relocate their concerns or establish new companies if the conditions are right. In the case of Wales, more

and more of them are discovering that it can offer a range of advantages hard to match elsewhere.

One of the great benefits is the workforce. Contrary to ill-informed myth, the Welsh do not have a bad strike record. Statistics which support the statement.

Almost without exception, inward investment companies have been able to establish a one-union workforce which streamlines negotiating procedures at every level. The people are also dextrous and have proved to the immense satisfaction of such companies as Sony that they can readily embrace new skills.

Companies can rely also on an increasing pool of young people who have a basic mastery of new technology because of the work being done in schools and at the Information Technology Centres run by the Manpower Services Commission. These centres have now been established throughout Wales to provide school leavers with basic computer programming and practi-

cal work experience in the production of new technology items.

One asset the Principality provides that money cannot buy is an abundance of clean air which for many high tech companies can be a vital factor in determining where to locate their enterprises.

The land that can provide what's wanted

Another is first class communications providing easy access to markets. From the M4 corridor in South Wales, Heathrow airport is just two hours away and the problems and reports of delays on the Severn Bridge have been largely exaggerated for political purposes. Most of mid Wales is under two hours from Birmingham and the north east has excellent road, rail, sea and air links.

At the base line, companies are not swayed into long term commitment by short term

government inducements such as a year's free rent. They are looking for a clearly defined and mutually beneficial financial and technical back-up package with which to establish and expand their operations. Increasingly, Wales is becoming the land that can provide just that.

The Welsh Development Agency now offers inward investors a one stop shop deal where businessmen can discuss every aspect of establishing a new venture.

This can range from the £7m deal arranged for Parrot to backing with amounts ranging from £10,000 to £100,000 from Hafren, the agency arm established to provide funds in risk ventures with high growth potential, particularly in the field of new technology.

With the aid of WINTech, which is now being established by the agency, companies will benefit from discussing the latest advances in technology with brokers who are specialists in state of the art advances.

In addition, a new understanding is being forged with the

No trouble in finding the specialists

The Immos Corporation's Welsh microchip plant near Newport resembles a piece of Habitat-designed Meccano - a building people either love or hate. But this relatively small example of "electro-architecture" sitting in landscaped lawn off the M4 is of strategic importance to the industrial future of Wales.

Its importance is not yet derived from magnitude, commercial success, or the number of people it employs but from its place as a symbol of what Wales hopes to become.

There are some signs however that the enterprise - 75 per cent owned by the Government - is beginning to turn symbolism into cash. In beating off an unwelcome and "derisory" £45m takeover bid from American Telephone & Telegraph, the corporation's chairman Sir Malcolm Wilcox, said the company, which includes two other plants at Bristol and in the USA - was worth at least £200m. More importantly he added that it was moving into profit from a loss of £14m on a turnover of £30m last year.

The turning point, said Sir Malcolm, was reached in the last quarter of 1983. He predicted that a small surplus this year would accelerate rapidly in 1984.

But the corporation was largely government-owned and the Welsh lobby led by Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, local MPs, and trade unionists, proved to be an effective one. Mrs Thatcher duly announced in the Commons that Immos was moving into Wales.

But if Immos was frog-marched over the border, the corporation has been pleasantly surprised since the plant opened in 1982.

Michael Wright, director of corporate services, said the company chose the Newport area as opposed to the valleys to the north and west because it did not seek to be "too important" to the local community.

"We are in a high risk business and did not want to be in the position where if we left, we would have created a disaster," he said. The company sought to play a role in the community, but did not want to feel that it was the major element. The Immos factory is in a relatively populous part of Wales between Newport and Cardiff.

The only drawback so far has been the Severn Bridge, which says Mr Wright can be "unpredictably congested". Difficulties are sometimes encountered in getting to and from the Immos plant at Bristol across the river, and in communications with the South-East in general, and Heathrow in particular. Immos received with some relief the news that the Government intends to spend money to rectify the situation.

"But the strong advantage of the location," says Mr Wright, "is the fact that we have managed to recruit some great people who are enthusiastic as well as highly competent."

Tim Jones
Welsh Correspondent

Continued on page 10

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No compromise over creating jobs Making certain of success

The Welsh Development Agency just spent £10,000 on out-ripping an American robotics company from setting up in the Principality. As he fingered the report which led to the action, Alan Sutton, executive director, marketing, said the agency had been well spent.

"For when we say no, we do professionally, and that raises our reputation among companies. We decided the particular product line of this company would not have given a reasonable chance of succeeding given the advanced state of robotics in other parts of Europe."

But the report will not be confined to the waste bin, for it provides the agency with a first assessment of the robotics industry and a detailed breakdown of all the competitors in the field. When other companies that business approach the agency, it will be in an excellent position to give them a quick expert analysis of their access potential.

The story illustrates vividly the professionalism with which the agency approaches the task of job creation in an area which has suffered more than most from the run down of traditional heavy industries.

In spite of an economic climate which still blows cold, the agency refuses to compromise on the care with which it approaches any company wishing to establish itself in Wales.

Mr Sutton said: "We are in the investment business but we are not just sitting on our hands when we say yes that company has a better than even chance of succeeding."

"And the more professional we are, the more the City will be willing to put up money to back projects."

It is a strategy which has gained international confidence. There are now 200 overseas



Alan Sutton: professionalism comes first

companies represented in the Principality, employing more than the coal and steel industries put together.

But the agency, acutely aware of the rapid advances in product manufacturing, is not resting on its laurels and has decided to set up WINTECH, which will act as its own expert high technology arm.

Working closely with the University of Wales, it will assist existing companies to translate new ideas, products and processes into reality and give investors expert guidance.

A director for WINTECH is about to be appointed and he will have under him three brokers who will each be masters of one of the high technology disciplines. They will be familiar with the latest state of the art developments and as important, know where to go for the information they do not possess themselves. Mr Sutton said they will not be bureaucrats and they will spend at least 70 per cent of their time

out of the office talking to companies.

The brokers will have no illusions. For last year the agency's management and technical advisers undertook more than 5,100 interviews and visits to help the owners and managers of small firms with business problems.

In addition, successful businessmen supported the agency's counselling service by holding more than 3,100 sessions for newcomers and fledgling enterprises.

The decision to establish WINTECH was taken after a report on its feasibility by Deloitte, Haskins and Sells.

There was a recognition that the supply of and demand for knowledge-based job opportunities must expand if United Kingdom workers are not eventually forced to accept wage rates comparable with those in newly industrialising countries.

The report also made the point that there has, in the past, been a considerable gap between the acquisition of scientific knowledge by universities and its practical application for industrial development.

More than 100 experts were interviewed for the report and on the basis of their response, the agency is confident that a new and mutually beneficial link can be forged between the universities and industry.

WINTech

"In the past," said Mr Sutton, "there has been a problem in getting both sides to work together because of the conflict which sometimes exists between academic scientific research and commercial needs."

Essentially, one of the prime functions of WINTECH will be to strengthen the existing industrial base by plugging companies into the university system for expert assistance in updating their technology.

In addition, the "leading edge skills" possessed by the five colleges of the University of Wales can be a powerful argument in attracting new investors.

Small companies in particular are sometimes thwarted from embracing new innovations necessary to strengthen and maintain their market position because of the huge expense of research and development. By talking to the brokers and working with the universities, they will be able to progress technologically without the huge financial outlay involved in establishing their own research departments.

University College of North Wales, Bangor, has already set up its own company which provides design, development and consultancy services for high technology projects. The other four colleges of the university each specialize in skills ranging from micro-biology to state of the art micro-electronics.

Mr Sutton said: "In the past, too many of our young experts have popped across the Severn Bridge and their departure has meant a shortage of the right people for companies coming the other way into Wales. We hope our new links will soon redress that situation."

Apart from a clearly defined relationship with the colleges, the existence of WINTECH will greatly assist the efforts made by the newly formed WINVEST team in its task of winning more industrial projects from overseas.

Under WINVEST, all the overseas promotional work which used to be undertaken by the former Development Corporation of Wales and the inward investment activities of the Welsh Office's Industry Department and the WDA have been brought together to provide an internationally competitive one stop shop for all potential investors.

Its approach will be aggressive and single minded. Mr Sutton said: "We will identify the companies we want and tell them exactly why we feel they would thrive and prosper in Wales. We'll pinpoint them and then go out and chase them."

With WINTech providing high grade technological expertise that pursuit will be made easier for the whole operation combines to promote the Principality as a "technology friendly" location. Once WINTECH is properly established, it will be particularly active in ensuring that new technology based firms receive the management support during their most vulnerable early period.

It will also consider establishing a whole range of back up initiatives, ranging from a Welsh Research Register, which firms can use to find the experts they need, to special grants to sustain the most promising business ideas.

People who live in Wales have long since learned to smile at the coal tip image because they know it is not true.

But the entrepreneurs did not come to the Principality because of its beautiful scenery, its golf courses and golden beaches. They came because a number of favourable factors combined to persuade them that Wales could provide the best possible package for their companies.

T.J.



A great future for electronics

One of the biggest companies in the sector in Wales is stockmarket high-flyer A.B. Electronic Products whose unlikely origins lie in an engraver's shop in Camden, North London.

The organisation grew up with the primeval electronics prewar and has now become a high-technology multinational with its head office at Abercynon, near Merthyr Tydfil.

Some would say an equally unlikely base for a fast-growing company with a £40m turnover.

But Henry Kroch, chairman and chief executive, argues that the adaptability and energy of local people, the environment and the crucial existence of the M4 motorway together with preferential grants make Wales

an ideal area for the electronics industry.

His company, which he is confident will exceed a £100m turnover within the next two or three years, is about to announce further expansion to its five plant network in Wales, which already employs 1,800.

At one stage A.B. Electronics was 95 per cent dependent on home entertainment products - that proportion is now down to 5 per cent.

Around 38 per cent of group sales in 1982/83 involved products for the data processing industry, while other highly sophisticated components are made for the motor industry, for defence and telecommunications.

The specialists

Continued on page 9

Concern that highly qualified staff would not move to Wales has proven virtually groundless. Between 75 and 100 highly specialist staff have been recruited from outside the area. There are also a number of specialists in the 400 drawn from Wales.

The Newport facility, which was planned as a high volume, high quality, low cost plant, has based its business thus far on the 16K Static Ram, which is the basic chip for computer manufacturers.

The company has also entered the market for 64K Dynamic Rams which are memory microprocessors for high speed computers.

It is also keeping its eye on the technological horizon with the development of the "transputer", which it believes is a significant innovation in the industry. This device will handle as many as 10 million instructions a second and it is hoped that it will be in production in Newport at the end of this year, or early next.

The Immos transputer combines processor, memory, input and output on the same chip, giving the power of around 100 average home computers, according to the company. "It is the device from which next generation computers will be built", says Immos.

To match its space age technology, Immos has nego-

tiated what it regards as an equally avant-garde labour relations agreement at Newport in an area which is known for strong trade union traditions.

The Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union has negotiated a sole recognition deal in return for what amounts to a "no-strike" pledge.

The union is a participant in a radical organizational structure which seeks to maximize communication and involvement. Any disputes between the company and the union which cannot be settled internally, are automatically referred to the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service which is called on to act as a binding arbitrator with a brief to come down on one side or the other - so-called "pendulum arbitration".

The one cloud over the Newport plant - as it is over the rest of the corporation - is the uncertainty over its ownership. The Government, as part of its privatization programme, is anxious to divest itself of a company which has cost it £11.5m in loans and grants.

Mr Wilcox is anxious that the company remains in British hands, now that the bid from A.T. & T. seems to have been successfully rebuffed. He will find strong support for his crusade at Newport.

Barrie Clement

Girls working fast on the production line at Dragon Computers, Port Talbot

The company's current financial health follows a loss of £1m in 1981. Its current commercial buoyancy is partly the result of a long-term multi-million pound contract to supply components for the IBM personal computer for markets in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

The contract has resulted in more jobs and Mr Kroch is confident that with two other important products under its belt - a switching system for the new XJ40 Jaguar and the BBC's Acorn computer - there will be other opportunities in future.

The life blood of the industry is pure research - an expensive and time-consuming activity, but Mr Kroch hopes to develop relations already existing with the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology and University College Cardiff.

"We would like to have access to some of their equipment, which is not used all the time. This could be of immense benefit," he said.

Apart from Abercynon, A.B. Electronics now has branch factories at both Dinas and Porth in the Rhondda, Abercarn and Rogerstone in Gwent and is also developing a new factory at Gellinirion, Pontypriid.

Another electronics entrepreneur with few doubts about moving to Wales was Terry Matthews, one of the founders of Mitel, which has set up a factory at Caldicot near Chepstow.

Mr Matthews has returned to the Land of his Fathers, having gone to Canada when his employer, British Telecom, showed little interest in his ideas.

Now Mr Matthews' plant at Caldicot sells PABX telephone switchboard systems to British Telecom, as well as to markets in 25 other countries.

One of the arguments deployed by James Driscoll of the Welsh Development Agency in persuading the company to go to Wales was the abundance of labour. They were not disappointed.

The plant was inundated with applicants for the 730 jobs available. There were 20 applicants for each vacancy, 10 of whom were interviewed.

Alan Horne, director of

product management, estimates the average age of the workforce at Caldicot at around 26. "They have responded extremely well. They are highly motivated and involved in the company. They all have share options and the majority take them up."

The company does not recognize trade unions, but Mr Horne believes there is no need for them. "We are an upper quartile payer and we have created conditions and an environment which our people appreciate."

He pointed out that each employee has BUPA medical cover, free life insurance and all are on the same pension scheme.

A number of new products are envisaged over the next year, including the Kontakt Workstation, which is an information and communication system for use by managers.

The workforce is scheduled to go up to 850 by the late spring.

Another 300 jobs is coming to Wales courtesy of the Comdial Corporation which is moving into two sites at Cardiff.

The bigger site will be a telephone factory - one of the first such plants to be built in Britain for many years.

Comdial, which owns its own semiconductor plant in America, hopes to produce a million telephones a year by next year.

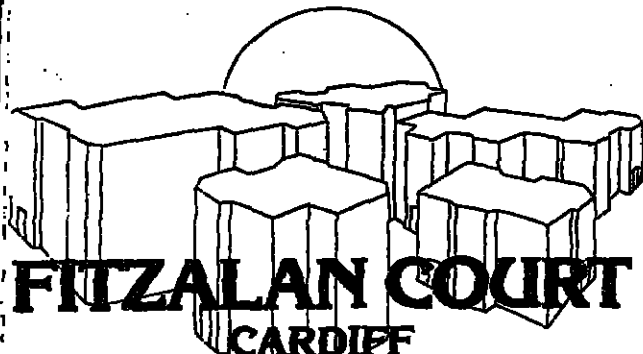
Ray Vickers, chairman of the British company and a vice president of the American group, said his organization conducted a detailed survey of Britain before deciding on Cardiff. They looked at Scotland, the North of England, North Wales, London docklands and Kent.

"We saw that there was a budding infrastructure of electronics companies in that part of Wales. We looked at where else was there and found Ferranti, British Telecom, Immos, Mitel and the plastics industry training board. We also noted the reputation of the two university colleges in the area."

Dragon Data, formerly a subsidiary of Mettoy, also emphasizes the proximity of other companies in the same business. "Apart from anything else, it means we can hire and borrow specialist equipment with the minimum of difficulty," said a spokesman.

Dragon, which makes computers at its plant on the Kenfig industrial estate near Port Talbot, was bought from Met-

Continued on page 11



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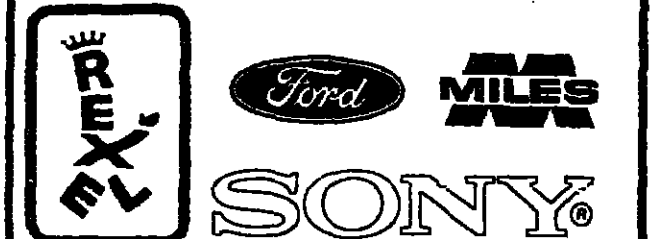
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The counterpunch that pulled in high-tech

It is no accident that Wales can offer to incoming high technology companies some of the best business complexes available in Britain. For the strategy of providing them has evolved from hard lessons learned when the Principality was reeling from the hammer blows of mass redundancies at steel plants at Shotton, Llanwern and Port Talbot slumped down.

Before that great decline, unprecedented in the industrial history of Wales, the Welsh Development Agency had been pursuing a successful policy of building advance factories throughout its area. Companies were attracted to the region partly by attractive government financial inducements even though some of the sites were not ideally located and therefore more difficult to market.

But the economic winds that blew cold in Wales were also effecting the rest of the United Kingdom and the realization grew that jobs could not be created merely by setting up advance factories and waiting for customers to turn up.

Graham Roberts, the agency's property marketing director said: "Warning bells began to sound that you could not

continue to try stemming job losses simply by creating new floor space. It was clear that if we continued at that rate we would be building more factories than we could let."

By the time the full flood of unemployment hit Llanwern and Port Talbot, the bells were ringing loudly and even the £48m provided by the Government for the agency to throw up more floor space was received with professional misgivings.

It was, said Mr Roberts, beginning to dawn on a lot of people that the sheer number of factory closures in the UK made it increasingly difficult to attract new industrialists into Wales. There was also another problem. As the old bulkwork steel industry closed plants or shed jobs and as other major employers retrenched the nature of industry was changing.

With alarming speed new technology in all its forms was beginning to emerge with all its specialist requirements. Mr Roberts said: "It became clear that some of the factories we were offering were not suitable for high technology and specialist companies. To put it bluntly, you cannot operate in a

sophisticated and highly competitive market from a shed. The Agency then began to move away from a supply led strategy and embarked on a detailed examination of the benefits Wales should have for attracting inward investors.

It undertook an original piece of research, since copied in London and elsewhere, which identified the requirements of the new knowledge based industries, from factories to funding. This research illustrated that high technology growth in the UK was mainly engendered by smaller scale projects which tended to grow rapidly. These companies wanted floor space that was clean, cost effective and flexible.

Adopting an aggressive stance, the agency surprised companies by approaching them directly and asking them exactly what they needed.

The result is that the new premises being provided are the next best thing to purpose designed units although they too can be provided.

The most dynamic growth area for new technology in Wales is along the M4 corridor from Newport in the east to Bridgend and beyond in the west. Two hours from London, with rents and service charges that are dramatically lower, the ribbon is extremely attractive to any inward investor.

For the corridor, the icing on the bun will be two major developments which are currently being undertaken. At St Mellons, near Cardiff, the WDA is creating a business park. Set in a green field campus setting, it is specifically designed to appeal to science based industries engaged in researching, developing or producing clean sophisticated products.

At Newport, Gwent, an integrated high technology centre is being developed in another pleasant parkland setting. Companies setting up on these two sites will have the advantage of being able to co-operate with the two university colleges in Cardiff on their research and development projects.

Companies closer to Swansea will be able to co-operate with the innovation centre which is



● Pilkington Brothers have three ultra-modern facilities making up a highly specialised enclave in the St Asaph area of North Wales. They are all part of the group's electro-optical division Pilkington PE, which employs 700, concentrates on the defence market and is the main supplier of night vision equipment to the British Army. Pilkington PE reports a significant pick-up in world sales since the Falklands conflict. It is also

moving into holographic optics for both military and commercial use. An offshoot of this division nearby has set its sights on extra-terrestrial equipment. It is currently making a cover glass for solar cells used on satellites. Also nearby is Pilkington Fibre Optic Technology, which employs about 50, working largely on fibre optics for data transmission. The picture shows one of PPE's general purpose night vision goggles.

Working hard, the Sony way

At seven-thirty every working morning a stream of buses and cars arrive at the Sony plant on the Bridgend industrial estate. They are carrying the entire 1,000 strong workforce.

And at four o'clock each day the seven hundred production line staff depart leaving the management and engineers to carry on for another two, three or more hours. It's a routine Sony are justly proud of and for industrial relations manager Alun Jones it is symbolic of the company's outlook.

Born some 40 miles away in the Rhondda and now the company's longest serving British staff member, he is at pains to stress that wherever they are located, firms stand or fall by their own efforts and he is dismissive of the "touch of Oriental magic" explanation for Sony's success.

Any success can only be achieved by hard work, he says. "Long hours are the norm here. From a practical point of view there's no advantage whatsoever in the early start but it is the tradition and it is a very strong discipline."

He had few regrets about the company's experience in South Wales and Sony's record of accelerating production figures and expansion, culminating in the millionth Trinitron TV set coming off the line recently, is testimony to their achievement since setting up in 1973 with less than 250 people.

Alun admits that originally the political pressures to move to a development area were "difficult to refuse" but anyway the firm was attracted by the region's excellent communications with London and, particularly, Heathrow.

The M4 formed a vital link with their distribution centre at Slough, their main market of London and the export outlet of Heathrow, the only suitable airport with links to Japan.

Aided by government and Welsh Development Corporation grants, Sony were also impressed by the premises on offer. "We wanted a plant built and looking as if it was built to modern specifications, not a 1943 Nissan hut, and we got the premises to go with our image," said Alun Jones who joined the plant at the outset.

He also stresses Bridgend's good industrial relations record which gave the lie to the popular image of militancy in the area, an image which is still a problem for the WDA and Welsh Office today.

Battling against such prejudices has proved Alun's biggest problem. He said: "A folklore has built up of rather aggressive, boozing, rugby playing miners who live in 'quiet but clean' cottages, sing in choirs and eat leeks all day. The image, frankly, is not of hi-tech."

"It is a myth. It has been very difficult to correct an image formulated over twenty or thirty years. It's a problem facing the WDA and Welsh Office and the worst thing is that in a very few places it is almost true."

"As a result, it's taken time to attract the infrastructure we need. The smaller feeder companies, people who aren't afraid to be in an underdeveloped area and so on."

The firm has also benefited from the high speed train link with London, a valuable aid in combatting travel fatigue for managerial staff, but they are less enthusiastic about the region's airport at Rhosce, near Cardiff.

Sony bemoan the lack of routes outside Europe but another company, Siliconix, who produce silicon chips at Morriston, West Glamorgan, have found a use for Rhosce. Though generally using Heathrow as an inlet and outlet, they use the Cardiff strip's customs facilities to avoid delays at the larger airport.

Operations manager Bob Edwards said: "We weren't entirely happy with using a big airport because the busier the airport the less personal attention you get. You can end up with goods being left in some corner for a couple of days without anything being done about them."

With the exception of the tempting grants, Siliconix's motivations in coming to South Wales in 1969 were rather different from Sony's.

They point to strong links with Swansea university's microelectronics department and the unstinting help of Swansea city council.

The American-owned company, who celebrate their fifteenth birthday in Britain this month are less apprehensive about the area's image than are their Japanese counterparts.

"It's very useful to be located in an attractive area like this," said Bob Edwards.

Both companies are quick to praise their Welsh workforces and are proud of their industrial relations records. Siliconix say that in fifteen years they haven't lost a minute's production through disputes and Alun Jones at Sony believes that is representative of hi-tech firms throughout the region.

But he is at pains to stress that the Japanese character of Sony's British operation has been exaggerated. "This plant cannot be run in the same way as a plant in Tokyo because there are different cultures and equally, techniques that have worked for Sony wouldn't necessarily work for other firms," he said.

Kieran Daly

Daffodils all round

In Philadelphia today 50,000 daffodils will be distributed to make people aware of Wales. The flower power approach is part of an aggressive three months promotion being launched in Pennsylvania to attract new technology industries to the Principality under the theme: "Try a country town in Wales."

There are already a number of American companies in the Principality and Mid Wales Development, who are spearheading the promotion with the Welsh Development Agency, intend to tell other companies why they should also cross the Atlantic.

From Newtown in the North to Ystradgynlais in the south, the MWD has already assisted more than 30 high tech companies to establish themselves successfully in the beautiful and undulating rural countryside.

To strengthen its high tech attractiveness, MWD has just started work on developing a science and technology park of land close to the campus of the University of Wales, Aberystwyth.

Eventually there will be up to 16 high quality units built of 2,000 square feet each. New and innovative firms on the site will be able to work closely with the university on their research and development projects.

Closer to the border work has also begun on the St Giles technology park at Newtown.

Not all incomers demand new buildings for Professor John Landon of St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, one of the country's leading biochemists, has received MWD assistance in converting an old milking parlour into a modern research centre.

T.J.

In a park . . . by the sea



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Fine for electronics

Continued from page 10

toy by a six partner consortium and established as one of the largest privately owned companies in Wales.

The success of its home computer Dragon 32 is destined to become as important to Welsh electronics folklore as the original dragon is to traditional culture.

Brian Moore, managing director, says the company now has a turnover of around £18m with about a nine per cent share of the market.

"Within a single year Dragon Data has moved from being a newcomer in the field to being recognized as one of the leaders in the home computer market in Europe," said Mr Moore.

Dragon Data is 42 per cent owned by Prudential Assurance, with another 23 per cent stake retained by the Welsh Development Agency.

Richard Wadman, sales and marketing director, said: "With the launch of the disk drives, the Dragon 64 and the establishment of a notable software list we feel we have now consolidated upon our early success and established ourselves as a leading force in the industry."

Cambridge-based Torch Computers has in some sense gone out on a limb with its sole factory at Caernarfon. It is a long way from its administrative base.

"Communications are diffi-

cult," said Bob Gilkes, chairman, "but the benefit we derive from the location is the excellent service and support we enjoy from the people there."

In fact one of the company's own products, an electronic mail system, is invaluable for linking the two locations.

The Caernarfon plant employs 25 people turning out between 600 and 1,000 computers a month priced at between £700 and £5,000.

B.C.

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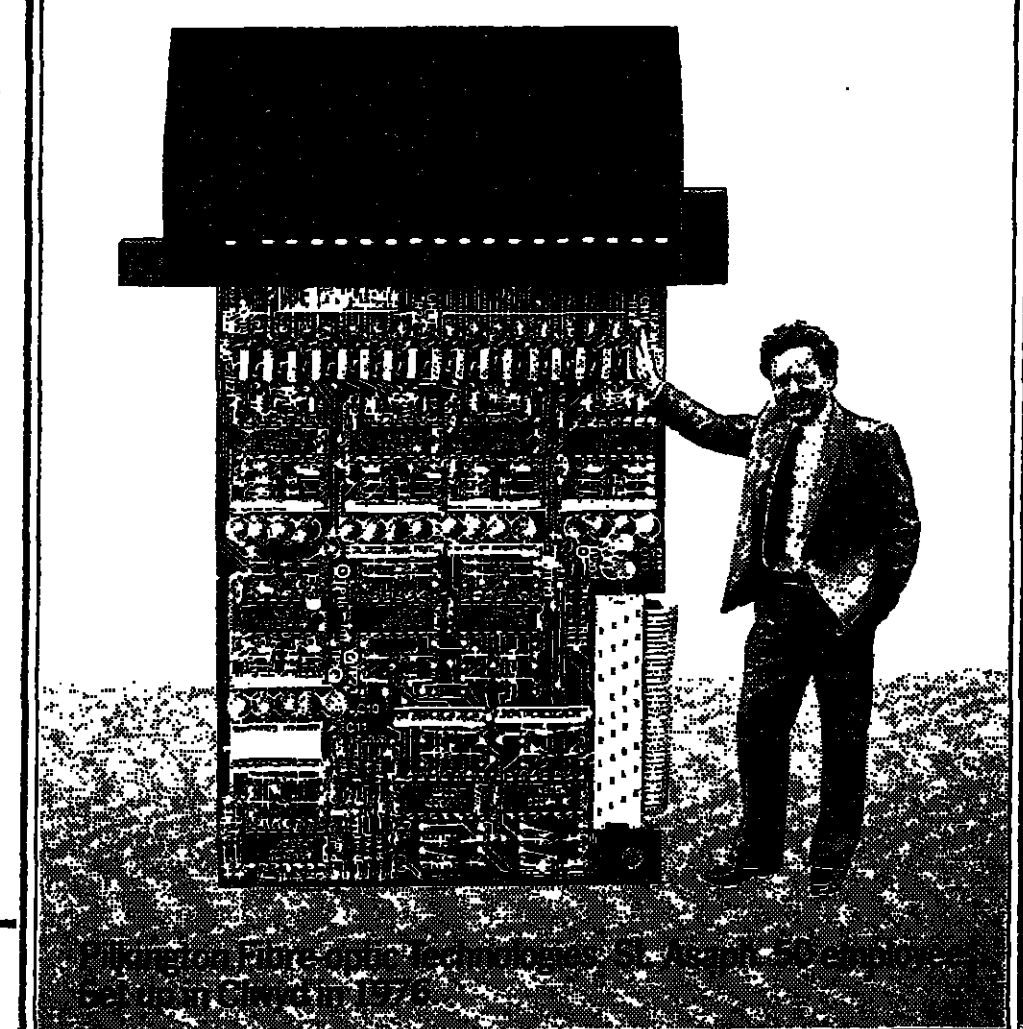
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Cinema: Geoff Brown at the Berlin Festival Gold in an emotional whirlpool

The jury for the Berlin Film Festival, chaired by Liv Ullmann, have just delivered themselves of a prize-list both sober and surprising. John Cassavetes's latest emotional whirlpool *Love Streams* (soon to open in London) won the Golden Bear; the Straubs' enervating Kafka-based *Class Relations* dutifully received a special mention. Albert Finney's theatrical gusto in *The Dresser* captured the actors' Silver Bear. Ettore Scola was chosen best director for his confident handling of *Le Bal*.

Other Silver Bears were scattered among the Greek *Rembetiko*, the West German *Morgen in Alabama* (a cogent, thoughtful thriller) and a dark Argentine comedy, *Funny Dirty Little War*. The rarest allocation was the actresses' Silver Bear, shared between the Russian Inna Tschurikova (for *A Front Romance*) and Monica Vitti, star of a lacklustre piece of fluff called *Flirt*. Perhaps Miss Vitti won the prize for simply looking youthful, which she did, splendidly.

To Britain first. The Alhambra Theatre, Bradford, a mayor's reception in Bridlington, a telegram reading "Outward Bound - start Monday": how fragrant the details of *The Dresser* seemed in the polyglot setting of an international film festival. Berlin took Britain's chief competition entry very well, though a ripple of incomprehension flowed through the cinema when Albert Finney's grand actor-manager happily mentioned *Macbeth* in his dressing room.

All told, the British films proved a strange assortment. The much-publicized survey of concentration camps made in 1945 with the peripheral involvement of Hitchcock - popped up one bright morning to depress audiences with its unrelenting parade of dead, mangled, starved and burned bodies. "Damned ghastliness," says a padre on the spot - a tragic case of British understatement.

There was also the world premiere of *State of Wonder*, shot in three hectic weeks by the Argentine-born Martin Donovan. This fey fable about peace, war and human understanding promptly induced a similar state among the spectators. Why, we pondered, was the golden-haired hero called Pichirica, and how did one spell it? How was finance forthcoming? Yet we kept on watching, warmed and entertained by the film's touching naivety, a rousing pop song, and the appealing new presence of Annie Chaplin, Charlie's youngest daughter.



Crowned with a Silver Bear: Albert Finney with Tom Courtenay (right) in *The Dresser*

If the full significance of Bridlington and the Scottish tragedy passed over foreign heads, revenge was forthcoming in Jean-Marie Straub's and Daniele Huillet's *Class Relations*, derived from the Kafka novel originally published as *America* (*The Lost One* is now the preferred title). For the Straubs strip cinema bare of every enticement - striking imagery, colour, gesture, emotion - leaving only an unscalable mountain of German words. The thin dramatic line describes the immingrant herd's path through a maze of injustice, but the plot matters less than the maddening pile-up of flatly expressed dialogue and the solemn rignarole with domestic props - lanterns, hats, suitcases, umbrellas. The Straubs certainly capture that crushing weight of the ordinary so essential to Kafka's world, but they achieve this at the expense of crushing even the most sympathetic spectator.

Those of us panting for opulence reaped our reward with Perce Adlon's *The Swing*, adapted from a lengthy episodic novel by Annette Kolb. Here the diet was if anything too rich: succulent images set the screen ablaze in a manner scarcely seen since Bergman's *Fanny and Alexander* (the cameraman here is Jürgen Martin). There are similarities, also, in subject-matter, for we follow the fortunes of a nineteenth-century middle-class Munich family through hardships both economic and emotional.

Previously, we knew Adlon for the small-scale exactness of

his Proust film *Celeste*, but in *The Swing* he handles large forces with equal precision. The camera prowls through ornate studio sets with the confidence of a lordly cat, scene upon scene pinpoints the characters with wit, elegance and love, whether they be eating, arguing, showing off the holes in their socks or dancing to the "Emperor Waltz". There are flaws: a 133-minute film needs more dramatic bite, and Anja Janicke, as the tomboy daughter, mugs too much. But, in a festival conspicuously short of seductive films, only a churl would complain too vigorously.

As the days wore on, the festival's sheer bulk and variety continued to daunt and amaze: one discovered interesting films through a combination of hot tips, curiosity and serendipity. Assiduous reading of the small print helped, too. Tucked away in the market section, for instance, was a banned Jiri Menzel film, *Snowdrop Festivities*, based on a novel by Bohumil Hrabal (author of *Closely Observed Trains*). This bucolic tale of obstreperous villagers began brightly, then quickly sagged, but it was good to see it.

Even the forbidding Mediterranean panorama produced one gem, the Turkish *Remedy* directed by Serif Goeren (who supervised the shooting of *Yol* for the imprisoned Yilmaz Güney). *Remedy* is softer and

slighter than its predecessor but it shows the same fascination with isolated communities and perilous wintry journeys. The story concerns a midwife stranded in a village by fierce weather. Plot contrivances set in with the snow, but Goeren carries the film to victory with his eye for figures in landscapes and his evident love of physical challenges.

Minor disappointments included Allen Fong's *Ab-Yang*, Hongkong's competition entry, drawn from the real-life beginnings of its petite, gifted star, Hui So-Ying. The human sympathy that radiated through Fong's *Father and Son* shines as strongly as ever, but the rambling structure causes problems. After good glancing looks at the heroine's restrictive family life, the film starts treading water, and the central relationship (between the girl and her drama teacher) turns static. Throughout, more weight and shape are needed, though the director's fond regard for his characters provides much quiet pleasure.

The festival's thundering disappointment, alas, was Samuel Fuller's French production *Thieves After Dark*, shown in an English-language version (with over-emphatic dubbing). This is the tale of young unfortunates trapped by circumstances - among them an appalling script, unhelpful actors and a director working well below his best level. Here and there intercut close-ups hint at the Fuller who produced the powerful *White Dog* two years before, but the whole is a disaster best forgotten.

Having missed it last September, I cannot say whether it has improved since then; but it certainly does more than any previous version I have seen to rid Tennessee Williams's play of its lingering reputation as a hot-house growth and reveal it as a masterpiece. It is as intensely personal as anything he wrote, yet - unlike his other Louisiana plays - the setting is not claustrophobically exotic, but a central meeting ground of High Street, America: a battlefield between the old Southern gentry and the raw urban immigrants, echoing with the Spanish, French and Negro

voices which Williams has succeeded in unscrewing from the melting-pot. The lack of privacy, that drives poor Blanche to her prolonged retreats in the Kowalski bathroom is integral to the entire piece. And Bernard Calshaw's two-level set, ground floor apartment backed with gauze walls, operates simultaneously as a trap and as a place of imaginative release.

The text is supported by an intricate Storyville sound score, sometimes closing in on the desolate heroine with the raucous voices and coital exclamations of the neighbours; sometimes conversing the place on her own terms, into a zone of magic and recollection; sometimes, as with the spectre of the old Mexican woman selling flowers for the dead, and the clanging of the streetcar itself, projecting the action into a form of theatre poetry comparable only to Lorca.

The story of a fragile, aging beauty ripped out of her protective shell and hounded into madness by insult, rejection and rape is unarguably sadistic; any audience would

feel cheated if Stanley did not finally get his brutal date with Blanche. Sadism, however, becomes intolerable only when it turns human beings into objects; and the achievement of Mr. Starchan's casting is to exhibit the characters in alternating aspects as aggressors and victims, always retaining full and detailed individuality. Duncan Preston's Mitch, for instance, is not simply an ageing mother's-boy; he is, as Blanche recognizes, the gentlest person she has met, easily hurt as she is (see that mouth set into a sulky scowl in the early scenes) and almost ready to be talked round into marriage before reverting to type.

The Kowalski household comes over with near-balletic control of the simultaneous performances areas, and with maximum ferocity, as in the poker fight with the radio hurtling out of the window and Stanley's fists pounding his pregnant wife. The strength of Paul Herzberg's Stanley is that you can see him from the viewpoint of either of the two women: a volitionally whole-hearted lover to Stella and a barbaric destroyer to Blanche.

isn't there anything more fun than a man from local cable television who indicated the limitations of the whole well-meaning exercise.

Last night *The Other Half* (BBC1) was Tony Garrett, who lives with Sir Angus Wilson. How many heterosexual marriages are as happy and productive?

Next came a man with a harmonica, then a girl guide describing her new troop's search for a badge, then a blind lady urging her fellow-sufferers to make use of sighted helpers, then an elegy for the half-p murdered by Nigel Lawson ("Farewell little cupro-nickel coin"). Then came a divorced former parent with a dense and detailed plea, then the Freeze Feet Crew (agile black gyrators), then a graceful and serious dance by some teenagers with Down's Syndrome, then the unemployed demanding a decent wage ("for all, in or out of work"), then a Rasta demanding reggae music from Wiltshire Radio ("And tanks to I-and-I God") and then, after some

shaking my fist", she began, though at whom or what was never clear. It was a speech rich in alliteration ("bashed by Beethoven the Butcher") by turns intensely personal ("Hallo Bill Alec Arthur"), nostalgic ("You now never see the 13,000 different trades on their bikes") and philosophical ("Because we're on the way to harmony and peace, or putting it to music..."), and finally bursting into song.

Did you know that some mornings Channel 4's *Video Box* stands empty, its attendant waiting in vain to assist Disputed Tun Wells in her anti-blasphemy crusade, zoophiles wanting to put the boot into *Jack's Game*, and comedians and close-harmony quartets moving up their path to stardom? Well, you know now, and you know what to do.

These are strange times. The half-p is dropping in the national consciousness almost as slowly as it is in the bemused minds of the broadcasting monopolists, but drop it certainly soon will: television no longer belongs to them. Every-one can star, at least for a minute or two, and anything (so long as puppets are not rude about royalty) can be said.

Anticipating by a year or two the full flowering of this happy state, *Open Space* (BBC2) recently set up its cameras in Swindon's central shopping precinct, and invited all comers to make a two-minute broadcast to the nation.

A forthright lady called Angela Tuckett came on first, with not so much a stream as a torrent of consciousness. "I'm

Operetta Fantasy wed to reality

The Merry Widow
New Theatre, Cardiff

Twenty minutes after the curtain should have gone up on the first night of Welsh National Opera's new *Merry Widow*, it was announced that the computerized switchboard had failed and there would be only one lighting cue for the first act.

It must have been a nightmare for Andrzej Szekban, producing and for the lighting designer, Jennifer Tipton, but, for the audience who knew not what they were missing, there was little to worry about. For, from start to finish, this is quite the merriest *Merry Widow* around for some time, with costumes (Jacques Schmidt and Emmanuel Peduzzi) which radiate their own kaleidoscopic light and movement, and dance routines (Kate Platt) which have an irrepressible digital programme all of their own.

The master of ceremonies, introducing the overture, heralds too the production's super-theatricality. The first act, with its wide curving staircases, begins in a flurry of mock-carnival dances, balloons and red and white flag-flutters, and ends in a wind-drift of confetti. Illusion is all; fantasy and reality are inextricable; character is negated in attitude.

So far so good; but there are already one or two danger-signs: too much clichéd choreography, the obligatory pieces of high-church camp and the time-worn device of projected news flashes ("Party-wise you ain't seen nothing yet"; "Bankrupt Balkans go down dancing").

The mirror-flanked space of Act II, reveals a production

A Streetcar Named Desire Mermaid

It will be time enough to celebrate the rebirth of the Mermaid when its new management start originating their own shows. But no booking house could hope for a more auspicious re-opening than this transfer of Alan Starchan's superb *Greenwich* Theatre production.

Words and Music
Ambassadors

After Victoria Wood, a pretty hard act to follow, come Benny Green "and friends" - an ominous phrase promising at best unstructured bonhomie and at worst anecdotal indulgence à la Ned Sherrin. Bookcases flank the Art Deco suite on which Mr Green, and friends, sit with their champagne glasses: bookcases stocked with well-loved tomes about Academy awards and the history of musical comedy.

Despite the ostensible theme of composer-lyricist relationships, this will clearly be an evening of Tin-Pan-Alley lore, Sigmund Romberg's plagiar-

isms from Vincent Youmans, emigrés' quaint English ("I can deliver my sketches at the drop of a bucket... just you mock my words"), what Oscar Levant said to George Gershwin and what George said to Oscar.

During these long recitals, delivered by Mr Green with barely a pause for breath, the twinkling Denis King sits patiently on his piano stool, Elaine Delmar looks on with the impressive grace of an ebony carving and Toni Kanal gazes with a loving and tolerant smile.

Just to make the show more unstructured still, one of the great lyricists is also a great comic novelist, and Mr Green has written his biography. So we take off into one-liners from Wodehouse, suitable goblets

delivered as solo scenes by Miss Kanal, and even gossip about the pig-living ninth Duke of Devonshire.

Apart from a comic alternative version of "Blue Moon" Miss Kanal does not sing, but Miss Delmar does and, as veterans of *Cowardly Custard* will not be surprised to hear, brings the greatest pleasure of the evening: perhaps not "Mad Dogs and Englishmen", which was never in her line, but "Dream a Little Dream of Me", "Along Came Bill" and "Mad about the Boy".

Progressing from Wodehouse to the Shuberts to Wodehouse to Coward to Wodehouse, we wind up with an unknown Plum lyric revealing that Jeeves was born in Brixton, curiously



Nice attitudes: Thomas Allen and Suzanne Murphy

spending just a little too much time looking at and admiring itself rather than Lehar. Every set-piece now has a little screen-projection of its own. This heavy leaning on the visual aid not only anaesthetizes by superfluous translation but is a telltale sign of the short-lived energy of idea and response.

"Vilja" is framed by a screened poster design and animated by a rather tacky *pas de deux* (and you need not think you have seen the last of them: they appear later to help us understand Danilo's narrative). Even more gruesomely, the summer-house duet is backed by a juicy bit of Beardsleyesque erotica, animated in turn by a silhouetted dancer who seems to have

strayed in from the beginning of television's *Tales of the Unexpected*. In the final act, sheer panache, colour and an energy fired by a combination of aerobics and *Peep's People* hurtle things on to the final reprise.

But, of course, there is something else here. The last duet between Hanna and Danilo maintains nicely the attitudinizing of their relationship. Thomas Allen's singing performance has all the potential for a broader, deeper characterization than that which he is permitted. Suzanne Murphy, on the other hand, needs both stronger and finer physical and vocal presence to ride to full stature in this sort of production.

While it is a treat to have the eye, and the energies of the entire company, kept so busy, the ear is constantly distracted from many of Lehar's own purely musical directions, despite spirited work in the pit from the WNO Orchestra conducted by György Fischer. That it is very much a company production is, however, one of its greater strengths; and the fact that individual characterization counts for little does nothing to discredit the performances of Robin Leggate and Kate Flowers as a hard-driven Camille and Valencienne, and Thomas Hemmley as a vintage Baron Mirko Zeta.

Hilary Finch

Theatre

In Clare Higgins's *Stella* you see the calm survival of one who can adapt to the melting-pot; in Sheila Gish's *Blanche* the tragedy of one who cannot. What Miss Gish does not do is to present Blanche as a fragile blossom. Slapped down in virtually every scene and bouncing back for more, she is resilient and courageous even in her delusions; while at the same time exhibiting more absurdities than that of a would-be enchantress under dim lighting. She also tries to play the elder sister, the mother and the schoolmarm. Southern-belle inflexions giving way to uncontrolled madly throbbing and bounding assertions of authority.

There is no attempt to make the character ingratiate or intensify its pathos. Watch that brilliant smile switching on and off like fairy-lights. Miss Gish shows her for what she is: and when she speaks her final line on the "kindness of strangers" it is as though she is stating her own formula for survival in America.

Irving Wardle

located in "London S.E.". All quite diverting, at times; but what a difference between a *Lucky Bag* of fizzing original songs and a host, however endearing, going on at his favourite subject, which had better be yours too.

Anthony Masters

located in "London S.E.". All quite diverting, at times; but what a difference between a *Lucky Bag* of fizzing original songs and a host, however endearing, going on at his favourite subject, which had better be yours too.

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Now, six million Golfs later, we're replacing it. With a Golf.

Do we mean we've given the old one a face-lift? A special paint job? A few go-faster stripes?

Impossible. It simply wouldn't be us.

The new Golf is new. From top to bottom. From tip to tail. From side to side.

Starting from the outside:

1. The body is new.

Seven inches longer and two inches wider.

Most of the room is for you, your knees and your elbows. And for your luggage?

2. The luggage space is new. It holds around a third more.

Next.

3. The drag factor is new.

By putting curves where the old Golf had edges, by raking the windscreen and making the quarterlights flush, it now has the lowest drag

It now holds twelve gallons, roughly three gallons or 150 miles more than the old tank.

7. The brakes are new.

All models have new, direct acting servo brakes.

You don't have to push so hard. And the response is more immediate.

8. The heater is new.

The old one only worked off water heated by the engine.

The new one blends in warm air. And holds the temperature you choose to within two degrees.

9. The noise level is new.

With new dampers, insulation and electronic adjustments during production, we've reduced the noise level by half.

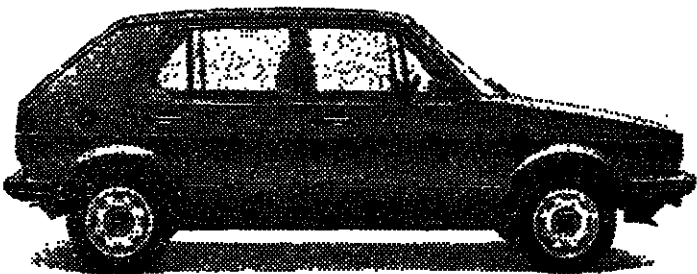
10. The exhaust system is new.

By using hot dip aluminised steel we've made it live half as long again.

11. The rear spoiler is new.

To see it you'll have to get down on your

If at first you succeed, try again.



Golf.



factor of any car in its class, 0.34.

4. The ride is new.

The wheelbase is now three inches longer (and the longer the wheelbase the smoother the ride). The suspension is developed from the system we use on our big saloons.

Over tarmac, cross country and cobbles, and round tortuous bends, tests have shown the Golf to be the best in its class.

5. The engines are new.

New 1.3 and 1.6 engines give around 5 bhp more than the old ones.

Better fuel consumption, too.

At the steady 56 mph beloved of government departments the 1.3 returns 52.3 mpg (ten miles to the gallon better than the old one).

Coincidentally, the new 1.6 also gives 52.3 (nearly eight miles better).

We've greatly improved the diesel as well (65.7 mpg against the old 53.3). And while we're on the subject:

6. The petrol tank is new.

hands and knees.

Born again Golf.

Because the spoiler is under the car just in front of the rear wheels.

Rotten for impressing the birds, it's true. But wonderful for attracting the road.

Since it deflects the airflow away from the suspension.

Is there nothing left of the old Golf?

One or two things.

The bodywork and paintwork warranties: six and three years respectively. Free with every new Volkswagen.

The rear seat belts. Compulsory in our book.

The rigid steel safety cell with crumple zones front and rear. We'd never make a Volkswagen around anything less.

And for some reason, the doorhandles.

It seems the chief engineer pronounced them perfect and refused to change them for the sake of change.

Typical. Just typical.



SPECTRUM

Chemical boosters are now part of the international sporting scene. The line between legitimate use and abuse is fine and only random testing can enforce it. David Miller explains how the Olympic cheats operate

Tracking down the drug-runners



In 1973, testifying to a United States Senate Committee, Harold Connolly, the 1956 Olympic hammer-throw champion, said that in the American team of 1968 there were athletes who had so many puncture holes for injecting drugs that it was difficult to find a fresh spot to give them a new shot. He added: "The overwhelming majority of the international athletes I know would do anything, and take anything, short of killing themselves to improve their athletic performance."

Connolly admitted to having himself been "hooked" on anabolic steroids for eight years, after winning his gold medal. At the 1983 conference in Britain of the Central Council of Physical Recreation, Mike Winch, an international shot-putter and member of the International Athletics Club, alleged, without implicating himself, that the medical threat to the health of athletes was now greater than it had ever been. Yet there is only one sport, rowing, in which the international federation has already initiated random drug testing - the only certain means of deterrent.

Random testing is of paramount importance, not only to eliminate cheats for medical as well as sporting "safety", but to legitimize those athletes, in particular women, who may unfairly come under speculative criticism.

Dr Leroy Perry, a Los Angeles chiropractor who has treated Olympic athletes around the world, is sceptical, for example, about world record breaker Jarmila Kratochvilova of Czechoslovakia, who won both the 400 and 800 metres in Helsinki. He recently told the *Los Angeles Times*:

"I believe her condition now is a physiological impossibility from what she was five years ago, and I don't care how many times she works out. That is not a normal physiological female body. I've treated Olympic female athletes in 34 countries... but I've never seen a body like that. I can truthfully say that I think there is something chemically different about her physical make-up, and it hasn't come from weight-lifting."

In 1979 Kratochvilova, who failed to qualify for the European championship final the previous year at 27, had a 51.47sec best for 400 metres. Five years later, she became the first woman to beat 48secs. Miroslav Kvac, her coach, attributes the improvement to increased work-load, especially weight-lifting.

But Dr Perry insists that while East Germans and other Czechs are using advance treatment with the male hormone, testosterone, Kratochvilova could not have achieved her physical changes in five years by any means other than "through an act of God". Random testing would have removed any possibility for such qualified but speculative accusations. Kratochvilova has of course a femininity certificate (issued after chromosome test of hair follicle) and there is the fact that the

western culture of feminine perception, especially American, rejects the more muscular woman acceptable in other societies.

Yet when an American woman coach can say "It's my honest belief that 75 per cent of women in the American team are not taking drugs", she is only proving precisely what she is seeking to deny: there will be a high proportion of drug abuse in the Los Angeles Olympics.

However, Prince Alexandre de Mérode, chairman of the IOC medical commission, thinks that the gap between the limits of medical testing knowledge and what the athletes can still use undetected is being reduced. "We shall be testing for the presence of abnormal quantities of testosterone in both men and women in Los Angeles", he says.

In experimental tests made in Cologne in 1981 on unidentified samples taken from competitors at the Moscow Olympics, more than 20 per cent were found positive for excess of testosterone - not on the list of prohibited drugs in Moscow - and predominantly among women. The sharp decline of the Soviet Union's achievement in long-distance Nordic events in Sarajevo compared with Lake Placid and East Germany's tiny entry of only three athletes for the European indoor championships at Gothenburg next week, suggest that testing is taking its toll on abuse.

Prince de Mérode succeeded Sir

6 That is not a normal physiological female body. I've treated Olympic female athletes in 34 countries... but I've never seen a body like that. I can truthfully say that I think there is something chemically different about her physical make-up, and it hasn't come from weight-lifting.

Arthur Porritt as medical chairman in 1967. His lineage goes back across 800 years of Belgian, French and German history, though is by no means a merely aristocratic window-dressing to the IOC's aura. An ex-parachutist and deep-sea diver with the Belgian forces, a cycling and rowing enthusiast, he disarms sporting audiences by the informality of his manner and dress. What he has above all is that detachment from the forces of self-interest.

"It is essential that the IOC preserves its moral power and its financial independence", he says. "We cannot exist without either. Without money, the Olympic movement is nothing. Our position has changed over the past 16 years, and it has to change carefully, but we could not survive on our finances as they were in 1968. I believe that by paying expenses



Jarmila Kratochvilova: improved through an act of God?

of six athletes and officials of every country to attend Los Angeles, and nearly £3m for the foreign judges and referees, we are better able to stay free of politics. Of course, the negotiations with a company such as Adidas are delicate, but we must do it."

While most people would agree with the demand at the Baden-Baden congress in 1981 by the new athletes commission, which includes Sebastian Coe, for a life ban of convicted drug-takers, Prince de Mérode is more cautious, insisting that the work of the medical commission must be towards positive as well as negative attitudes: that athletes must be shown how they can escape from the temptations of drug-aid.

"Cheating will go on to the end of the world", he admits, "but our job must be as much to expose the health dangers, of depression, of glandular

and cardio-vascular damage, as to ban people. We know that there is blood-doping, the re-injection of the athlete's own fortified blood, which cannot be detected; but do the athletes know that it is only three-tenths effective, and has the risk of accident?"

While he agrees that the reinstatement of positive-proved offenders by the International Amateur Athletics Federation is not good for the image of sport, he is of the same opinion as Professor Arnold Beckett, one of the foremost researchers in the field at Chelsea College testing laboratory, namely that ignorant competitors manipulated by coaches or doctors must not be totally condemned. As Beckett says: "We don't want to crucify those not responsible - kids who didn't know what they were doing, but it's a difficult and narrow line."

The prevalence of drug-taking was

emphasized by the positive tests, and by widespread sudden withdrawals by athletes before competing at the Pan American Games in Venezuela last autumn. At a recent press conference an American journalist asked Prince de Mérode whether he thought such testing, which had been unexpected by some, was fair. There is general belief among an American public neurotic with suspicion of Russia, that drugs must be taken to stay in the political race. The fact is that American athletes, who have never previously been subjected to domestic testing, are among the world's worst offenders.

It is with his views on restricting the work-load of athletics training that Prince de Mérode is most radical. There is too much competition for the human body to endure, he suggests, and training should be limited by regulation, just as it is in other forms of working employment: a 25 hour week? He argues:

"In sport there is no time limit, but administrators must become interested in this factor. Certainly, it is a type of social regulation. But so is 'saving money' with the trust funds now allowed under Rule 26. We must think of such things. There cannot be absolute freedom even in the rights of a professional sportsman, any more than there are in medicine, or piloting an aircraft."

Prince de Mérode follows the thinking of the new definition of the Olympic ideology: that, within the right framework, the rich should not be excluded any more than the poor. "An instrument of social promotion must be consistent. Everyone is somewhere on the line from absolute amateur to complete professional. We have to evolve. What is important is that we should discover more, physiologically, to assist the athlete to improve, to avoid injury."

He is emphatic that random testing must ultimately become the standard practice, but does not believe the IOC can control it. There is the question of the reliability of the laboratory - whether it is professionally free of financial or political interference. At present there is no accredited laboratory in Africa or South America; in North America only one (in Montreal) prior to that in Los Angeles for the Games.

"Every competitor should be tested regularly, but the laboratory must be trustworthy, technically and politically. I believe the initiative must come from the international and national federations. Belgium is already random testing for all Olympic sports. It will always be a question of principles versus practicality. How do you know that an unknown who suddenly wins a marathon has been random tested throughout recent years?"

Professor Beckett says that researches are almost ready to test for the use of the human growth hormone and gonadotrophins, though as with other hormonal excesses, the advantages are short-lived. The medical commission was receiving the latest research reports in Sarajevo. We can be sure both drugs will be present in Los Angeles.

moreover...
Miles Kington

Pearls of the Jewel

Well, was India like the country portrayed in *The Jewel In The Crown* or wasn't it? The best way to settle the question is democratically: that is, by printing the best of our readers' letters of the subject.

From Marinda Gupta

Sir, May I say at the outset that that is not my real name? I have merely adopted an Indian-sounding name in order to get this letter printed. I worked in India for many years. I have also spent a long time watching the ITV broadcast of *The Jewel In The Crown* on Tuesday evenings for an hour and also the repeat on Channel 4 on Sunday, and I may say that it seems to reflect life in India very faithfully. In the small town where I lived there was absolutely nothing to do, so on a Tuesday evening some of us used to get together for an hour's amateur dramatics. We used to do the same again on Sunday, especially if some of us had missed the Tuesday session. So you see, it could not be closer to the real thing.

From Prince Ali Hassan

Sir, May I say at the outset that that is my real name, but my friends call me Bunty? Thank you, I spent my youth in India, ending up at the smartest university of the day, where I am afraid I did not do much work but drifted into the company of various gilded youths and led a rather sybaritic existence. After various family complications my life was changed dramatically by the war, as well as by the unexpected deaths of some of my friends. So I am not entirely competent to judge the accuracy of *The Jewel In The Crown*, as I never met that sort of world; what I can vouch for is the unerring accuracy of *Brideshead Revisited* as a picture of pre-war India.

From Stanley Goodhope

Sir, Everyone has a different picture of the Raj, for the very good reason that they all had different vantage points. Who is to say who is right or wrong? Is the peasant more or less right than the commanding officer? My own experience is a case in point. I worked on *The Jewel In The Crown* as Assistant Deputy Graphic Artist. (My job was to do some of the more boring bits of the credits. One of them, I remember, was "Assistant Deputy Graphic Artist... Stanley Goodhope", though this was actually cut out in the final version.) The production company was like a vast empire, with people like me never so much as seeing the producer or director, and certainly never coming into contact with the actors. I was simply part of the tolling work-force, unaware of the overall pattern. In fact, until I saw the programme, I had no idea it was set in India. I trust my point is clear.

From Oliver Pundit

Sir, I am not surprised that *The Jewel In The Crown* is thought to be inaccurate. I myself watch a daily serial on BBC called *The Nine O'Clock News* which purports to be a picture of life in Britain today, and it seems to bear no relation to life as it is really lived. It features nothing but motorway crashes, trade union clashes, angry politicians and natural disasters. I have lived in Britain all my life and have never seen any of these things with the exception of a tree that fell down in my garden in 1978, and broke a plaster gnome. I did not know who does the research for *The Nine O'Clock News*, but they are sadly misinformed. My real name by the way is Gupnar Mahatta, but I thought an English name would be best for this letter.

Growing optimism

One in five British adults say they have read Orwell's 1984; two in five could recall who had written it, a recent MORI poll for *The Sunday Times* reports.

Twenty seven per cent of Americans recently told Harris they had read it. In 1949, when the book was published, 48 per cent thought another world war was likely in the following 25 years and 20 per cent thought it was unlikely, according to a Gallup poll carried out that year. In 1983, the number of optimists who think a world war is unlikely has doubled. A majority (59 per cent) of Labour supporters expect a war, a majority (52 per cent) of Conservatives do not.

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research
PUBLIC OPINION

Privacy fear

The fiftieth anniversary of the National Council of Civil Liberties is, ironically, taking place in 1984. Half of the public believes the Government keeps too much information on people, 59 per cent believe that some trade union leaders' phones are tapped and 85 per cent are opposed to the police having access to files containing information on citizens who don't have a criminal record. These findings came from a MORI poll in December, 1983.

Gallup has added an interesting dimension to these questions, finding:

- Seventy two per cent of Britons believe there is no real privacy because the Government can learn anything it wants about you; only 38 per cent of West Germans believe this.
- Two thirds of us believe the Government uses false details and statistics to hide bad news while only 26 per cent of West Germans believe this.

Further to last month's finding showing that 7 per cent of the population in Britain is left-handed. They are not only twice as likely to be in the lower category (AB) as in the lower category (DE) but more likely to be Daily Mirror readers than Sun readers. Daily Mail readers than Daily Express readers, to make speeches, be elected officers of organizations or clubs and generally play a more active socio-political role in society. They are twice as likely to believe that the Government should be paying attention to the environment.

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Life on the breadline

Poverty level

Greenwich Borough Council has released the findings of a MORI poll which found one person in four in the London borough is living in poverty, compared with the national average of one in seven. Nearly 1,000 people were questioned and were assessed as "poor" if they were lacking three or more essentials as defined by the national survey as necessities, mainly food, accommodation and clothes. The 24 per cent figure means that 50,000 Greenwich residents are living in poverty, compared with 14 per cent in the national survey. Breadline Britain, conducted for London Weekend Television.

Active left
Further to last month's finding showing that 7 per cent of the population in Britain is left-handed. They are not only twice as likely to be in the lower category (AB) as in the lower category (DE) but more likely to be Daily Mirror readers than Sun readers. Daily Mail readers than Daily Express readers, to make speeches, be elected officers of organizations or clubs and generally play a more active socio-political role in society. They are twice as likely to believe that the Government should be paying attention to the environment.

Worry swing

Many people in Western Europe are worried that if the US puts new nuclear missiles into Western Europe, there will be a nuclear confrontation here, between the US and the Soviet Union, which could lead to a nuclear war. Americans were asked in November if they shared this worry by Harris, for the *Chicago Tribune*. Fifty seven per cent said they did; 39 per cent said they did not. This was a "worry" swing of 41 per cent since March. An even greater shift was measured by the percentage of people who said they were "very concerned" in November by the possibility that the world would be plunged into a nuclear war, up 12 points from the 47 per cent in their March survey.

Media bias?
More than half of trade unionists believe the media often report union affairs unfairly and 47 per cent believe that, in general, unions are treated less fairly by the media than by employers and the Government. Over half (55 per cent) believe that TV and radio reports of union affairs are more reliable than newspaper reports.

The Daily Mirror is seen by trade unionists (38 per cent) as pro-union; 4 per cent as anti-union. The Daily Express is seen as most anti-union (29 per cent) by trade unionists, 17 per cent of whom believe The Times to be anti-union against 2 per cent who say it is pro-union. Very few trade unionists believe that ITV is pro- (3 per cent) or anti- (8 per cent) trade unions. But while 3 per cent say BBC TV is pro-union, 11 per cent believe it to be anti-union, according to a MORI poll conducted in November/December for the town hall union Nalco.

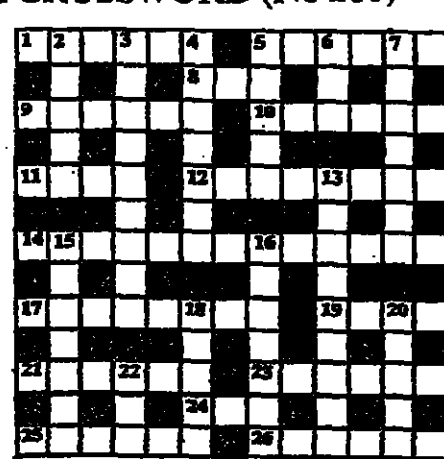
Robert Worcester
The author is the chairman of MORI. Details of fieldwork, dates and samples are reported in British Public Opinion Newsletter, published by the firm.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 280)

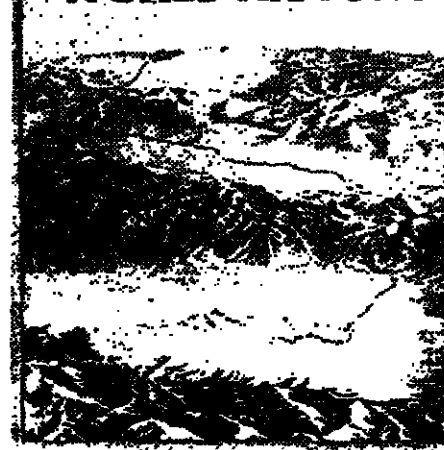
ACROSS
1 Casual comment (9)
5 Counsellor (6)
8 Purpose (3)
9 Peak (6)
10 Written missive (6)
11 Collar fastener (4)
12 Roman Ireland (8)
14 Perfect state (5,3,5)
17 Tree gardens (8)
19 Apiece (4)
21 Annoy (6)
23 Book of changes (1,5)
24 As well (3)
25 Sunk (6)
26 Gravity defier (6)

DOWN
2 Break out (5)
3 Heavy plated mammal (9)
4 Vinegar sauce (7)
5 Off the cut (2,3)
6 Appraise (3)
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BOOKS

Professor Nicholas Lash of Cambridge reviews the sermons of his Chancellor

The Duke as homespun humanist

Men, Machines and Sacred Cows
By The Duke of Edinburgh

(Hamish Hamilton, £8.95)

Helicopters and conservation, fuel technology and propaganda, polo and the mind-body problem: the range of topics treated is reminiscent of Pope Plus XII's propensity to discourse upon every subject under the sun from the existence of God to Italian bee-keeping. But whereas the Pope supposed himself capable of treating all these subjects with some authority, the Prince is more modestly aware of the fact that, on most occasions, his audience is likely to be better informed on the matter than he is.

As a peculiar kind of public figure with strong views on many fundamental social issues, Prince Philip is in an impossible position. He is expected to say something. He wishes to say something. And yet, if he said what he wanted to say too specifically, he would be accused of having made "political" and hence (according to the conventions of the myth) an improper intervention.

The effective technique which he has evolved for coping with this situation relies heavily upon his talent for being pithy, almost epigrammatically offensive, while softening the blow with a nicely self-deprecating irony: beneath the snap and crackle of the prose, the essential shyness of the man comes through.

Twenty-five speeches and addresses are grouped in four sections, which might be marked: allegro vivace, maestoso, con brio, and andante. The four light and witty pieces in the third movement have entertainment, rather than instruction, as their aim (this is where the helicopters and the polo come in).



Prince Philip: having to say something on horses and philosophy, on cabbages and King's

Much more measured and magisterial, the items in the second and fourth groups (dated between 1951 and 1983) are lectures and addresses to various professional and academic bodies. Especially in the second group, entitled "Science and Natural History", the sense of well-briefed "balance" is so strong as to make them, at times, uncharacteristically dull. The final section, on "Engineering, Technology and Design", strikes a rather more personal note. Here he returns, again and again, to what is perhaps the most important theme in the book: his exasperation at our lunatic depreciation (expressed in social attitudes and educational systems) of engineering, technology and design.

Labels (as he reminds us) are misleading. Yet philosophers, like everybody else, inevitably get labelled. Prince Philip the Homespun Philo-



sopher (whose voice is most clearly heard in the first movement, on "Men, Computers and Sacred Cows") is a humanist, an individualist, and a rationalist.

As a humanist, he insists that structures are for people, not people for structures, and deplores the extent to which "we have gained in knowledge of the outside, of external nature, at the expense of our knowledge of the inside, of our own hearts and minds". As an individualist, he believes that "it is not the national economy which decides the circumstances of the individual, it is the other way round".

The Homespun Philosopher is most impatient of theory (except in the natural sciences) and prefers to proceed by aphorism: "ignorance is a great begetter of pride". He is a rationalist in the sense that, while acknowledging the world to be complex, he seems to

suppose that its complexity is purely technical, and patent of "rational" solution.

As a political analyst, he is not at his best. All social systems, we are told, "are either the consequence of natural evolution or they are the product of a personal theory". The latter kind include many horrid things associated with Napoleon, Marx, Hitler, Allende and the Ayatollah. We are not told to which group the American Constitution belongs, but we can take comfort from the fact that "the British Common Law and Parliamentary systems are the product of natural evolution".

"It is His Royal Highness admonishes, 'so tempting to allow a little prejudice to slip in or to indulge in a bit of malice'. This book would have been much less interesting had he himself resisted these temptations.

Woodrow Wyatt reviews our GOM of letters

The broad sweep of history

A History of Britain and the British People

Vol 1, Set in a Silver Sea

By Arthur Bryant
(Collins, £12.50)

Sir Arthur Bryant's aim is to interest us in our history and make us proud of it. He writes it like a novel, though the characters and events are not fictitious but carefully researched. His previous books have covered separate periods not linked together. Now he has had the happy idea of writing a short (relatively) history of the British people from start to finish as a continuous narrative in three volumes.

This is the first and very enjoyable of them. Like the next two volumes to be published later, it draws on much that Sir Arthur has written in his other books. The advantage is that the gaps are filled in and there are no breaks in the story.

I wish he had written a little more about the earliest times in Britain. The Roman occupation is dealt with too briefly to have the same impact as the more detailed chronicle of the period between William the Conqueror and the end of Richard II's reign.

Nor is he gone far into pre-Roman history. He speaks of

the stone circles at Avebury and Stonehenge as having lasted 30 centuries. Avebury was begun nearer 55 centuries ago if not more. And recent archaeological research would give less importance to the Beakers than Sir Arthur does, and more credence to the view that some of the Belgae walked across the narrow piece of land joining England to the Continent, before it was washed away 10,000 years ago by the great flood caused by the pressures of different sea levels on either side of it. It is when Sir Arthur reaches King Alfred that he really gets going. Till then he is a bit sketchy.

Sir Arthur seems to favour Thomas Becket against Henry II. He writes about both so airily and vividly that his sympathies go to Henry II. Becket really was a dreamer, a priest who did not render unto Caesar those things which are Caesar's. If Henry did not precisely order his removal he should have done. Becket was made a saint for interfering with the proper administration of his country, not on spiritual grounds, but to uphold the temporal power of the Pope.

The story of the British ownership of Bordeaux and its consolidation by the Black Prince is well told. We held the area for three centuries, longer than we ruled India. I should have preferred never to have lost

the former than ever to have held the latter. Possibly, as a member of the Saintsbury Club, Sir Arthur feels the same. It was the British who developed claret and who to this day know more about it than the French. Bad luck for the French that the Plantagenets never occupied Burgundy.

Sir Arthur is a patriotic historian. He shows the British in all their bloody-mindedness but argues that they are better than anyone else. He deals not merely with kings and high officials but with the common people, how they lived and thought, and how they began to force their freedom from their rulers.

He is as good on social history as he is on military campaigns. His account of the rebellion led by Wat Tyler and the dirty trick played on him by Walsworth, the Lord Mayor of London, is compelling. It would make an excellent basis for a TV series. Indeed, beginning with poor King Harold who nearly survived fighting on two distant fronts at once, the whole book would. Meanwhile it is a pleasurable way of absorbing history painlessly: a triumph for a historian aged 85 who takes in the broad sweep, without losing the road, in the manner of Gibbon or Macaulay.

Woodrow Wyatt

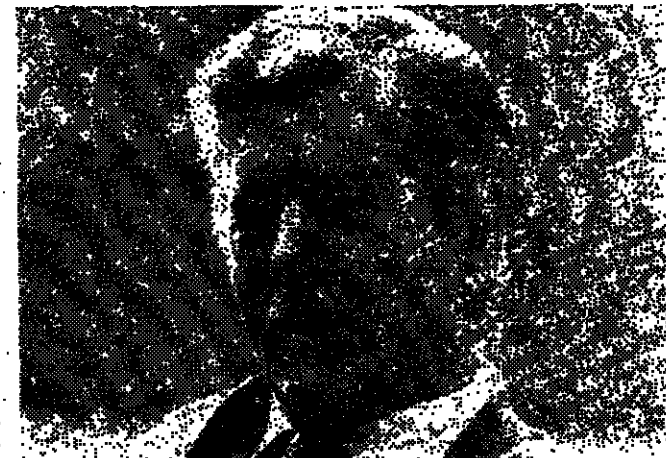
The Middle of a War

Home and Dry
By Roy Fuller

(London Magazine Editions, £8.95)

A summary of these memoirs sounds jejune. They cover the petty war service of a Petty Officer in the Fleet Air Arm on remote radar postings in Africa and England, as far removed from the great events as a medieval peasant. The author is insouciant, shy, an anti-traveller, and a respecter of rules and authority. His memory for names, faces, and facts is hazy. Was Ruby Ring the name of a safety razor or a brand of women's silk stockings? Many of his concerns are dim batherations in which readers may well not feel deeply engaged. It will help them to have read the previous two slim vols, to which there are frequent references.

Face this bald summary, of course the memoirs are more vivid and evocative of the war than most other books about the period in which more dramatic events occur. The poet's memory for facts may be



Roy Fuller: A Wry Smile at war

imprecise, but his recall of impressions is exact. Roy Fuller was not quite a war poet. He saw only the waiting rooms, the bar corridors of the fighting. But with irony and affection he recaptures the atmosphere of that lost time, when service life provided a society, like that of Powell or Proust, where coinci-

dence was an ever-surprising commonplace. The memoirs are especially good on the sub-editor's tricks of memory, and on the connection between experience and some of the best poems written during the Second World War.

Philip Howard

Tom Hutchinson discusses science fiction

Tycoon in future space

The Steps of the Sun
By Walter Tevis

(Gollancz, £7.95)

The American Dream is different things to different dreamers. To Billionaire Belsion a tycoon out of his future time - it's a chance to escape his own neurotic self-regard by finding an analgesic without after-effects, and non-radioactive uranium to power his country which, through lack of fuel, is subservient to the Chinese. He achieves his aims on the planet to which he is transported but, returning, finds that the American authorities have dreams of power which do not coincide with his own.

Written with a sure grace and suave momentum, the space journey here is really a journey into the interior of Belsion's own past which furnished him with an entire gymnasium of hang-ups. His ultimate redemption comes with the down-on-earth apprehension of actuality and how to cope with it. Walter Tevis wrote the haunting *The Man Who Fell To Earth* in this he is describing, with marvellous insight, a self-made alien who happens to be human, dreaming with his eyes wide open.

Isaac Asimov's *Wonders Of The World*, edited by Kathleen Meloney and Shawna McCarthy (Hale, £7.95). A rich and varied selection from Dr. A's own magazine; and there is, in fact, a typically inventive story by him: about a man who learns to design personal wings.

The Colour Of Magic, by Terry Pratchett (Corgi, £7.95). Raising the spoof on the sword-and-sorcery genre is this account of a clumsy wizard, called Rincewind, whose antics provide most of the fun in a Fritz Leiber-ish kind of way.

Superluminal, by Vonda McIntyre (Gollancz, £8.95). In the future posited here interstellar pilots are, quite literally, heartless, their bodies modified so that they do not fast-decay into death when ships travel faster than light. Telling the love-story of a woman pilot, Laena, Miss McIntyre evokes the mind-compelling atmosphere of gentle hallucination.

Moreta - Dragon Lady Of Pern, by Anne McCaffrey (Severn House, £8.95; Corgi, £3.95). Names such as Roughtian and Capian festoon the pages and the dragons ride high above the planet. Anne McCaffrey is back with another romance of the rarified regions of Pern.

The Midas Deep, by John Brossan (Hamlyn, £2.25). With the sexy bits cunningly speeded-out between less loin-girded action, this larky adventure of rival nations battling it out across the subterranean frontier is a forceful enough read for any train journey.

Spaceache, by Saco Wilson (Chaito & Windus, £7.95; paperback, £3.50). SF as political satire when undesirable Chrissie is deep-frozen and shot into space. Not as funny as it thinks it is, but it still lances deep into the boil it thinks Britain has become.

Tom Hutchinson

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WASHINGTON POST

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Stately measures?

The Aeneid
Translated by Robert Fitzgerald

(Harvill Press, £12.30)

If the *Aeneid* is as boring in Latin as it is in English, the translation that is not boring would, I suppose, be false. Let that origination come quickly, for the work (including Dryden's version) is so boring that no one can doubt Octavia fainting while hearing Virgil read it, or that when he lay dying the poet wanted, but lacked the will, to burn it in manuscript.

The *Aeneid*'s hero is a pious yach-yah whom Achilles would have killed with a blink; its message is a justification of world conquest; its hopeless hope, to rival Homer; its intention is to flatter its sponsor; and its sponsor was the loud who exiled Ovid. On what can the poem's fame depend if not on the scholars who make their names and some of their money out of it?

These, like me, who fail to like Fitzgerald's *Aeneid* may well have lost their wits. Try it. Book 1: Zeus reassures Venus about Aeneas's eventual fate. 1. *Our children's destiny has not been changed.*

I promised, you shall see Lavinia's walls

And take up, then, amid the stars of heaven

Great-souled Aeneas. No new thought has turned me. No, he, your son - now let me speak of him. In view of your consuming care, at length, updating secret fated things to come. In Italy he will fight a massive war. Beat down fierce armies, then for the people there Establish city walls and way of life.

It's no good, is it? To make something of this miserable review, allow me to recall an instance of Virgil's power over English life.

In the first half of the eighteenth century a fanatical admirer of Virgil called Triptolemus Yellowfellow decided to manage the estate he had just inherited according to the principles laid down in the *Georgics*: ploughing, sowing by moonlight, copulating in the furrows, hayrack frolics after parsnip wine - those of you who live in the countryside will know exactly what I mean. Greatly to the disadvantage of all concerned Triptolemus was a soul of great physical beauty, generous, charming, obstinate, much loved and trusted by his people, who followed him, and Virgil's instructions, to the letter and to ruin. Leaving their wasted land, Triptolemus and his people sold themselves into slavery and were shipped to America. Perhaps there was a Fitzgerald among them.

Christopher Logue

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Knave, fool, but also Nazi

Dönitz
The Last Führer
By Peter Padfield

(Gollancz, £12.95)

Peter Padfield, sea-officer turned historian, had dropped a pattern of depth-charges plumb on top of the legendary image of Dönitz, Commander-in-Chief of the German Navy, Grand Admiral, and Hitler's appointed heir to the last-ditch leadership of the Third Reich. That public knowledge of so significant a figure should have depended, for almost 40 years, upon cosmetic conspiracy reinforced by autobiography is astonishing. One can only say that the markedly different story now unfolded has the ring of truth and must affect not only the

verdict of history upon the character and propensities of Karl Dönitz himself, but upon the causes, the conduct, and even the consequences of the Second World War.

Since 1945 Dönitz has been remembered, even revered, as a zealous, admittedly ruthless but outstanding naval leader - an officer and a gentleman who felt in duty bound to serve his country as best he could despite a political leadership with which he was not in sympathy; and, when the end became inevitable, the only man with sufficient authority to effect the unconditional surrender of Germany to the Allies. What we have been looking at, it now appears, is the self-portrait of an artist in *suggestio falsi* and *suppressio veri*. The real Dönitz, far from being untainted by the

Nazi creed and its excesses, was known in his service as "Hitler-boy".

Indeed, when Dönitz replaced Raeder as C-in-C of the Navy (at Raeder's suggestion, he said) in January 1943, he quickly gained Hitler's support for the intensification of U-boat warfare, as affording the best prospect of victory in the 'west'. Not only was his strategy of attrition wrong in principle, but in pursuing it the German Navy (and Air Force) completely failed to prevent the Normandy landings.

It is evident, from this fully documented and well-written book that Dönitz, if not the worst of the knaves, was certainly not the least of the fools.

Ian McGeoch

Gay Firth reviews the fiction of the week

The angst of being a star

The Anatomy Lesson
By Philip Roth

(Cape, £8.95)

A Curious Street
By Desmond Hogan

(Hamish Hamilton, £8.95)

"You're the famous writer. You wrote the dirty book." Well, yes, you could put it that way. Philip Roth does. Well, he would, wouldn't he? The ring of truth, flashing inside a flashy, fragile ring of confidence and wild laughter, has always been his stock-in-trade.

The Anatomy Lesson, successor to *The Ghost Writer* and *Zuckerman Unbound*, is his last, least successful, but by no means tiresome dispatch from the war zone that is Nathan Zuckerman, American Jewish novelist. A tragical-comical torrent of words seeks here to show the literary life as living death; books as bonds, words themselves as a torment. Clashing symbols, Wailing Wall imagery, and high, hilarious moral outrage take Mr Roth - not so much crying as kicking and screaming - out of the way to the bank. You have to hand it to him; and you have to laugh.

Lying prone on a child's plastic playmat, head propped on Roger's *Thesaurus* as a vish-ditch attempt to ease a crippling, uncontrollable pain in his neck, now invading every nerve end of his physical and mental anatomy, Zuckerman finds much less than nothing to laugh about. "Vocationally obstructed, physically disabled, sexually mindless, intellectually inert, spiritually depressed," he has more problems than you could shake a stick at; especially being Jewish, American, and a novelist. Properly, more financially than critically successful.

Scarcely less terrible afflictions include being 40 years old; addiction to drugs and vodka; and hair loss by the comb. Two parents are dead, three wives divorced; four female playmates pester him sexually on the playmat. Properly neurotic readers, especially the millions who are also Jewish American novelists, will spot in a trice that "the only other American who seemed to be in as much trouble" in 1973 was Mr Nixon, President, engulfed by Watergate.

It says as much for Philip Roth's relative freedom as it does for literary craftsmanship that in the nick of time - over halfway through a relatively long novel - *The Anatomy Lesson* and its pupil rise like Lazarus from the playmat in Newark, N.J., and begin to live and move and have their being. This style becomes ever more manic, occasionally maddening. But the action takes off P.D.Q. - to Chicago, America's Second City, Zuck's Alma Mater. He is going to re-enrol, determined, on his second crack at life, to be a doctor. Obstetrics is his chosen field. "Who quarrels with an obstetrician? He catches what comes out and everybody loves him."

It does not quite work out that way, of course. And Chicago is no Lourdes although it contains an inferno of suffering, not all of it - Zuck begins to notice - his own. *Nel mezzo del cammin di nostra vita mi ritrovai per una selva oscura, che la diritta via era smarrita*. Well, Mailer ran for Mayor of New York, didn't he? Hemingway shot his hero and then, and then - back into life with a chance, a sharper, more critical path of identity.

It there is a degree of indolence in his frantic exposure of human frailty, fantasy, and self-disgust, there is always a greater degree of human decency and dignity; always more to admire than to be offended or irritated by. When *Goodbye, Columbus*, *Portnoy's Complaint*, *The Great American Novel*, and the rest become obsessive to the point where you begin to worry about who - if not you - may be going blind you should reach for your security blanket and carry on reading. Mr Roth is not, perhaps, a Great American Novelist, but he is still a pretty damn good one: skilful, shrewd, grounded in seriousness. That we should be so lucky...

Without suggesting that Desmond Hogan should be less serious than he is obsessive on Irish themes, it will take more than a little bit of luck to sort out a style in serious danger of drowning his seriousness to death. Perceptions of Ireland ancient and modern - myth and reality beautifully mingled in his short stories - wash in and out of his new novel like flotsam and jetsam, on a flood of obsessively indulgent prose.

The Daysman
By Stanley Middleton

(Hutchinson, £7.95)

On the face of it, John Richardson is a modest, modestly impressive man. He does not claim - as Owen Glendower claims - to be able to call spirits from the vasty deep, but there is something of Glendower's provincial self-importance, second-rate wizardry, and actual distance from reality in this sane, sensible headmaster: stable, affectionate husband and father, go-between and confidant to the unstable, the distressed, the occasionally desperate. An admirable, even an enviable figure. Writes books and stuff about education, too. Good on TV. But faithful readers of Stanley Middleton, who did not begin to write 23 quiet, subtle, infinitely varied novels yesterday, may feel a familiar edginess round the back of the neck. It may be and probably is the case that sensible, caring John Richardson, *The Daysman*, the mediator, is actually about as helpful as a hole in the head to people much less sensible and humane, certainly, but possibly much more human; people who, having holes in the head of one kind or another, are unlikely to notice or care that John Richardson and his like

"This is a fearful dilemma, but I can't see any advantages in delay" - can be humbugs, often horrible ones; sometimes downright dangerous.

And then again, we may be wrong. After all, Joanna Richardson, John's sane, sensible, ever-so-slightly astringent wife seems very fond of him. Fond enough, anyway; and not, it seems, fooled. Joanna says: "The trouble with schoolmasters is that they think all problems are soluble. They aren't." That's what Joanna says. And it really isn't anyone's fault that Veronica Brooks, persuaded to take her three A-levels to university rather than a dead-end job kills herself a few days later.

From counsellors, educators, pundits, pontificators, and long-leggedy beanie headmasters, Good Lord, deliver us. Failing this, Stanley Middleton can and does. Implacably ordinary, with no surface hint of the fey, the abnormal, or the outlandish, he remains one of the very few writers writing in English for whom, if he bothered to call them from the vasty deep, spirits would probably come.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Now it's jaw-jaw

The fighting may be over, but the Falklands war goes on. Monday sees the publication of a highly critical book, *The Sinking of the Belgrano*, by Arthur Gavston, former Associated Press diplomatic correspondent, and Desmond Rice, who spent seven years in Argentina as Royal Dutch Shell's manager. That is only the first shot, though. During his researches, Gavston discovered that Alexander Haig, the US Secretary of State at the time of the war, was also writing a book about the Falklands. It will be published on both sides of the Atlantic on April 30. Rice, meanwhile, learned that Nicastro Costa Mendez, Argentina's ex-foreign minister, is about to have his day in print - and of course our own Jim Callaghan has indicated he will have something to say about the Falklands in his forthcoming autobiography. Still, it's all one-upmanship for that old campaigner Tam Dalyell, who tomorrow will again put down a Commons motion questioning the Government's version of the Belgrano sinking.

● The tales of sexual shenanigans at Open University summer schools, so beloved of the tabloid press, appear to be given some credence by the following entry on the bank statement of an OU alumnus: "Open Univ Stud Fee £26.60".

Boaks' blessing

Perhaps the most notable feature of the Chesterfield-by-election is that the name of Bill Boaks, grandfather figure of the political fringe, is not among the record number of 17 candidates. It grieves me to report that Boaks, who will be 80 in May, will never again lose his deposit - as he has had some 30 times - under the eclectic banner of the Democratic, Monarchist, Public Safety, White Resident party, of which he remains the sole member. He was badly concussed in a road accident 14 months ago, and when I rang his Wimbledon home yesterday he was too tired to come to the phone. His wife told me he cannot think too clearly and, apart from twice-weekly visits to hospital, seldom leaves the house. Mrs Boaks, though, was able to pass on a couple of responses from her husband. He is appalled by the proposal to increase the election deposit from £150 to £1,000, and says that in his half-century of natural supporters in Chesterfield should feel free to vote for anyone - except Benn.

In for a penny...

A Tory MP's visit to the lavatory cost £300 this week. Steven Norris, MP for Oxford East, is also deputy leader of the Conservative group on Berkshire county council. While Norris was out of the chamber during a budget meeting of the "hung" council, a vote was taken on a Labour move to spend £300,000 on schooling for the "rising fees" - and the Tories lost 43-42. If Norris had voted, the Tory chairman could have used his casting vote to kill the motion. "This sort of thing happens in the time with a knife-edged majority," said a slightly sheepish Norris. Some might call it doing good by default.



BARRY FANTONI

Forgotten lines

We know, of course, that theatre managements, book publishers and so on are extremely selective in the critics' quotes they choose to publicize their products, but I cannot help feeling the National Theatre is being a little bit naughty in quoting our own Irving Wardle in quoting our own Irving Wardle on *Jean Seberg*. "Extremely accomplished collaboration by a talented team with a burning belief in their subject," says the blurb. But Wardle actually went on to say in the very next sentence: "Unfortunately that belief is misplaced."

Honorary gong

Lord Rhodes, the 88-year-old Labour peer, achieved a unique distinction on his last visit to China, where he has been leading unofficial parliamentary delegations since 1978. He has become the only octogenarian member of the Chinese Young Communist Association. It happened in a Chongqing park through which Lord Rhodes was progressing in the wheelchair he sometimes uses. He found himself amid a youthful group playing a game resembling pass the parcel in which a rag was passed round to the sound of a gong. Whoever held the rag when the gong stopped had to pay a forfeit, such as dancing or reciting. Lord Rhodes left holding the rag in expectant silence, obliged with a stirring rendition of *On Ilka Moor bahtu* at, whereupon his delighted hosts presented him with a Young Communist badge.

PHS

In search of a just deterrent

by Richard Harries

The avoidance of war is primarily a political matter. Unfortunately, the General Synod of the Church of England, if it debates today, as scheduled, further deployment of cruise missiles, will reinforce the impression given by the peace movements that wars are caused by the existence of weapons systems. But Canada does not feel threatened by United States missiles. We British do not go in for fear because of the French nuclear force. The establishment of peace depends on political initiatives, sustained over a long period of time, and the gradual adjustment to new conditions. What then should the Synod be saying?

First, it should be encouraging a longer perspective. The two superpowers have an almost infinite capacity to destroy each other. Neither power is going to divest itself of its weapons; neither is going to collapse; neither is going to change its ideology. This means the present stalemate will continue for as long as we can foresee. "We think in centuries here," they say at the Vatican.

It is a useful perspective. Europe had to live with the Turkish threat for centuries. The church should counter the present hysteria and impart some of its traditional wisdom: that most problems in life cannot be solved. They have to be lived with, calmly, courageously and constructively.

Eventually Roman Catholics and Protestants adjusted to the need to live peacefully together in Europe. Eventually the two superpowers will have to adjust to living together on the same planet. Meanwhile, there is the overriding priority of

avoiding nuclear war, which both acknowledge.

Second, the church should remind people that if they are sincere about wanting to become less dependent on nuclear weapons it may cost more. A declaratory policy of "no first use", which the last Synod voted in favour of, is dangerous nonsense. An actual policy, however, is highly desirable and one on which all churches could unite. Now, for the first time, because of the new precision-guided weapons, this is a real possibility. But will the church point out that if we want to raise the nuclear threshold we will have to pay for it?

Third, it should remind people that in a world in which there will always be conflict, always one crisis following another, what matters is having the mechanisms ready and working to cope with them. The present preoccupation with weapons systems not only distracts people from the prime political task which has to be performed but stops people asking about these really vital matters.

At its most basic, are the hot lines working? What procedures, if any, have the superpowers agreed on to cope with the next crisis when it comes? There seemed to be little in the way of agreed procedures at the time of the shooting down of the Korean airliner. It is the old, old story of people being seduced by an illusory ideal (in our case the idea of a world free of the risk of nuclear war) so that they fail to take the basic and essential steps for minimizing the risk of war in the world in which we actually live.

All these three points are unpalatable or unfashionable on the high moral ground on which the church likes to sit. All the more reason for the church to make them.

Does this mean the church should say nothing about particular weapons systems? All it needs to say is implied in the motion that Synod voted in favour of last year. The first part of the Bishop of Birmingham's amendment said: "It is the duty of H.M. Government and her allies to maintain adequate forces to guard against nuclear blackmail and to deter potential nuclear and non-nuclear aggressors."

A key word here is "adequate". By this the Bishop was pointing to a minimal deterrence and by doing so he stands firmly in the "just war" tradition. For as that tradition has justified recourse to force if absolutely necessary, so it has insisted that only that force which is strictly necessary may be used. As there is a theory of the just war, so there must now be a theory of the "just deterrent". One key principle is that only that force which is strictly necessary to deter (ie, to inflict unacceptable damage) must be deployed.

The church has no special competence to pronounce on particular weapons systems. It does have a duty to urge the Government only to deploy the minimum necessary; and this minimum is to some extent independent of what the Soviet Union may or may not be deploying at a particular period.

Richard Harries is Dean of King's College, London, and Vice-Chairman of the Council for Arms Control.

the future. We must show the leaders of Eastern Europe that after the start of missile deployment, their assertions still lack foundation: it does not involve a question of war or peace, nor does it constitute a step towards destabilization instead of the restoration of equilibrium, or the pursuit of a Western strategy of confrontation. Especially as a country in which the missiles are being deployed, we advocate a policy of moderation and understanding on the basis of equality, equilibrium and mutuality. Both sides can but benefit by cooperation for a shared future founded on the manifold ties and experiences of a shared past.

The genuine results of the policy of détente pursued in the 1970s must be consolidated and improved. The East-West dialogue is still under strain because Western Europe's vital security interests are being impaired by the Soviet policy of stockpiling more and more weapons and seeking to decouple Europe from the United States.

On Nato's thirtieth anniversary, five years ago, the then secretary-general, Dr Luns, said that détente had a different meaning for the West than for the East. While the West construed it as the dismantling of bureaucratic barriers in the wide field of human contacts as well as economic and commercial relations, the East interprets it in the narrow sense of "peaceful co-existence", permitting an unbridled ideological offensive. The Soviet Union and its allies must abandon this attitude: détente can be achieved in the long run only if neither side views it as an instrument for obtaining security advantages to the detriment of the other.

It is in our mutual interest to foster East-West relations. To this end a modicum of stability and steadfastness is required in the relationship between the two superpowers. This should be attainable in view of their parallel interests in essential areas to prevent armed conflicts that could result in nuclear escalation, to achieve tangible results in disarmament negotiations, and to reap mutual benefits from economic cooperation.

Considerable importance attaches to intensifying the direct political dialogue between the superpowers. I would therefore welcome an early meeting between President Reagan and Mr Chernomerk.

In the eyes of a German head of government, the German and European aspects of the foregoing considerations are of special significance. The two German states - the Federal Republic and the GDR - must, particularly at difficult junctures, contribute towards the preservation of peace by engaging in constructive cooperation. One of the principle aims of the latter is to ease the situation of the people in our divided nation. The Federal Republic and the GDR have a shared responsibility: peace must emanate from German soil.

A full collection of articles in this series will be published in book form in conjunction with the Georgetown Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Washington.

As a volunteer for the 1960 Kennedy election campaign, studied law, then worked as an attorney in Colorado. There he met George McGovern, now one of his rivals for the Democratic nomination, who appointed him national director of his 1972 presidential campaign.

Hart does not have the money or the machine to match Mondale's, yet he has been able to "prove his credibility as a candidate; Democrats in other parts of the US may now also decide to opt for Hart's new generation of leadership" rather than Mondale's "politics of the past".

As for Reagan, Hart's relative youth, his pragmatic brand of liberalism and his espousal of new ideas could prove even more compelling. Reagan could no longer accuse a Democratic Party led by Hart of wanting to return to the big government, high-tax policies of the past. Nor could he accuse it of being the party of special interests. Hart's youth would highlight Reagan's age. And his advocacy of new ideas would make Reagan's own special interests become an issue.

Nicholas Ashford

Ronald Butt

Till divorce us do part

The General Synod of the Church of England once more considers today what it is to do about the remarriage in church of divorced people. The Anglican communion has always held firmly to the principle that marriage is indissoluble, but it is now faced with the consequences of the gradual loosening by the state of the conditions on which divorce is granted.

Divorce is now virtually available on demand. Anyone who thinks that his or her marriage has "broken down" and who is not willing or able to try to mend it may now petition for it to be dissolved after three years, which will be reduced to only one year under the latest divorce bill. There are now no clearer criteria for divorce than that a marriage (as casual conversation has it) "isn't working", a state of affairs commonly spoken of as though it were an Act of God (in the lightning thunderbolt sense) instead of something that one or both of the spouses might have acted to prevent.

The old incentive to try to make the best of marriage, which was provided by the knowledge that its bonds could not easily be severed has gone, and the present incidence of divorce extends well beyond those hard cases, sometimes described as tragic and for which at least one of the partners, with the best will in the world, can find no remedy.

How is the church to respond to those who, in all seriousness of intention, wish to have either a second marriage in church or some other church ceremony which would bless their second union, or offer spiritual comfort in some other manner? The principle that marriage is lifelong is still said to be sacrosanct, but many among the clergy now feel moved by compassion to minister to at least some divorced people on the occasion of their second marriage.

Here, as in so many other matters, the church takes its idea of compassion from the climate of the times which holds that compassion lies in freeing people from the consequences of their actions (the abortion law) and from irksome bonds (the loosening of the marriage commitment). Of course, the church has always been influenced by general opinion as well as by theological criteria, but in the past the climate of the times was itself broadly Christian. Today it is substantially non-Christian, and in many ways is hostile to the moral rules by which Christianity has always functioned.

Even so, churchmen feel a need to come to terms with the prevailing secular conscience, and from this need came the proposal (previously supported by the synod and the bishops) for a complex procedure by which a divorced person wishing to remarry in church could apply, through the parish priest, to a multidivisional panel. This unpopular idea has been dropped. Instead, the House of Bishops, through the Bishop of Winchester, will this year propose to the synod that (while marriage is theologically indissoluble) responsibility for the decision on remarrying divorced people in church will rest firmly on the diocesan bishop in consultation with the parish priest (guided by criteria established by the General Synod).

This is a still worse proposal since, in practice, permitted cases of church remarriage would largely be

determined by the pressures on the parish priest. When one hard case has been allowed in the parish, how is he to stand against the claims of another, not quite so hard, but perhaps hard enough? How is he to resist pleas based on comparisons with what has been allowed in the parish next door? How is the bishop to refuse to accept the practical parish difficulties facing the priest? In the end, it is hard to see what remarriage would not be allowed.

Alternatively, there is the idea that those who have been freed from their indissoluble Christian marriage should have, not a church remarriage, but some other kind of church ceremony, sometimes described as a blessing, to launch their second, civil, union. But what would such a blessing signify? If it were no more than prayers that the remarried couple should be happy, or not fail at their second marriage, or should be good to each other, they could be offered by the vicar, or friends, privately.

If, on the other hand, it is a blessing on their remarriage as a state (rather than on the partners as individuals), it would be virtually a way of validating that new state without designating it a marriage. (If it is not a blessing on their state, why is it a special ceremony needed?) It would be tantamount to creating a kind of grade two below-the-spiritual-salt marriage.

The only way in which the Church of England could avoid a hopeless muddle of indissoluble marriages, blessed unions of the previously indissolubly married, and disapproved claimants, would be if it could agree on what might constitute Christian grounds for divorce, then unambiguously remarrying those it had so divorced. Doubt whether such agreement on the grounds for church divorce could be reached.

But for the church simply to try to find those fit for remarriage in church from among the many whom the state has chosen to divorce, would risk reducing marriage to an absurdity in Christian terms. Whom the church remarries, let it put assunder itself, if it can. If the church is to do something less, and bless the second union of the divorced, why should it not bless the third, or the unions of those living together in what are sometimes called stable relationships before marriage (or before not marrying)? And what about the claims that are sometimes expressed for the blessing of homosexual unions?

It is the conventional wisdom that happiness can be promoted by the removal of impediments to the satisfaction of wants. All the evidence, not least from the divorce courts, is to the contrary. We change rules to accommodate changes that are deemed to have occurred, and by so doing stimulate change that forces the pace of change still further. That is the danger. Nothing written here is intended as a censure of the divorced. None of us has the right to sit in judgment about the spiritual status of second marriages, many of which are recognizably of a kind that might be described as blessed. But for the church to seem to lose its convictions about marriage would set an example even beyond its own members; it would be one more sign of its obedience to the secular conscience. Its business is to bear witness to its own beliefs.

Mark Steyn

Let's hear that double entendre again

Each succeeding generation likes to think it was the first to be open about sex, and it's no real surprise that "Relax" by Frankie Goes to Hollywood became a No 1 hit after being banned by the BBC because of its lyrical content. It would be nice to think that it was banned because its lyric was boring, but, alas, it was because there was somewhere in the disco-mix, something sexually explicit, however inaudible.

Although it flatters a mediocre record to say so, "Relax" belongs to a tradition of crude blues songs that stretches back 60 years (rock 'n' roll itself was originally a sexual term). In the 1920s, a variation of the genre produced some sly songs that were simply extended sexual metaphors, such as "My Handy Man" (which was, naturally, followed by "My Handy Man Ain't Handy Any More") and "My Military Man" (who keeps her awake all night with his manoeuvres, etc.).

Far more interesting, though, than those not widely-heard songs were the efforts of mainstream songwriters to say something more sophisticated than wanting to spoon by the light of the silvery moon. Even the most innocuous lyric could sometimes cause offence. In "Wonderful" (1927), Ira Gershwin wrote "you've made my life so glamorous/you can't blame me for feeling amorous", and four verses later a girl just like the girl that married dear old dad as it's possible to be. On the other hand, American radio programmers were still so sensitive in 1975 that, when Paul Anka sang "I Don't Like To Sleep Alone", it had to be explained that he hoped to solve the problem of his nocturnal loneliness by, of course, marriage.

Whether the ban on the tedious "Relax" was merited or not is another matter, but one rock musician who told me that the action was Stalinist was perhaps unfairly maligning the Soviet Union, where sex rears its head in the strangest places. In "It Ain't Necessarily So" from *Porgy and Bess*, the line "Little David was small, but oh my" was once translated into Russian as "little David was impotent". Oh my!

The author is currently writing a book on American lyricists.

The shy radical opening up a generation gap

Manchester, New Hampshire
"The oldest ideal of the Democratic Party is new ideas," Senator Gary Hart told cheering supporters after his surprise victory in the New Hampshire presidential primary on Tuesday. "Franklin Roosevelt proved that with the New Deal in 1932, John Kennedy with the New Frontier in 1960. And we will prove it with the New Democracy in 1984."

Does Hart's victory mean the dawn of a new era in United States politics? Undoubtedly his enthusiastic young campaign workers believe and hope that it does. But despite his surprise victory, he is still far from winning the party's nomination. Although he has caused Mr Walter Mondale to take an embarrassing tumble, it is still highly questionable whether the handsome young senator from Colorado has the resources to derail the former vice-president's well-oiled, well-financed machine during the rash of 26 primaries and caucuses over the next three weeks. But his victory on Tuesday contains important lessons for the Democratic Party. In particular, it shows that many Democrats have become disillusioned with its tra-

ditional leadership and are seeking someone who can steer it in a new direction.

Senator Hart has sought to portray Mondale as representing the old guard of the Democratic Party establishment. "His career has been characterized by caution every step of the way," he said during a recent interview. Hart's whole campaign has been based on the theme of the need to develop a new generation of leadership. He has presented himself as the candidate of "new ideas."

Ever since he was elected as a senator for Colorado at the age of 37 in 1974, Hart has sought to rethink the conventional wisdom of the Democratic Party by putting out a steady stream of proposals on topics ranging from defence to environmental policy, from taxation to job creation.

Some critics say his so-called new ideas are simply old ones in new wrappings. As Senator Hollings, one of his rivals, said: "Gary Hart had a steady stream of ideas. It was putting the unemployed to work rebuilding public facilities. I guess you have to be from a new generation to think that's new."

In fact it is only when one gets down to examining the detail of his new ideas - and Hart is obsessed by detail - that the radical shift from conventional Democratic Party thinking becomes apparent. His main problem has been his inability to get his political philosophy across to the public. One reason is that his ideas are complex and cannot be easily encapsulated in slogans.

Another problem has been his inability to project himself as an inspirational leader. Although he has many of John Kennedy's physical qualities he has none of his ideal's eloquence or passion. "Too much Hart, not enough soul" is one of the criticisms directed at him.

Hart is not a natural politician. He is shy, self-conscious and dislikes what he considers the "cheap emotionalism" used by old-guard politicians to win votes.

Hart's reserve and his dislike of ostentatious date back to his boyhood in Kansas, where he was brought up as part of a large, poor, deeply religious family named Harpence (he changed it by deed poll). He went to a fundamentalist school in Oklahoma and from there to Yale Divinity School - a remarkable achievement for a young man of such humble Midwest origins. He got involved in politics



P.O. Box 7, 20 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

KICKING THE DOG

Ten men - justen - stopped this paper reaching its readers yesterday. Our engineers withdrew their labour in accordance with the instructions of the local branch of their union. So did the engineers of every national newspaper publishing house in Fleet Street. They gave no warning: indeed the meeting of the union branch was accompanied by guidance which was tantamount to deception. No newspaper office had warning of the impending stoppage. No management therefore had an opportunity to discuss the proposed stoppage or, once the determination to proceed with it became clear to seek an injunction to prevent the engineers breaching their contracts for no other reason than that they wanted to show some solidarity with the trade union movement's criticism of the Government's decisions over GCHQ.

The damage that Fleet Street engineers have caused is colossal, and only too calculable. The direct costs of the stoppage amount to about £600,000 for *The Sun*, ranging downwards to perhaps £100,000 for *The Guardian* with the other newspapers in between. On top of that nearly a million pounds of advertising will have been lost to Fleet Street forever. On top of that again tens of thousands of newsgivers throughout the country and a host of other small businesses which depend directly or indirectly in great part on the revenue they receive from the publication of national newspapers, will have been afflicted with one more body blow to their livelihoods. Why?

This week it is GCHQ. Last month this newspaper was stopped because a trade union contested the management's right to appoint a manager. In spite of the stoppage that right was explicitly upheld; on New Year's Day Sunday newspapers failed to appear because of lack of agreement with another trade union. In November last year

newspapers were stopped because of the dispute at Warrington; the year before there was interference to show sympathy with the health service workers. It is always newspapers on which trade unionists seem to vent their discontent with the government, or somebody else of whom they disapprove. It is not the television companies, the BBC or local radio. It is like going out to kick the dog, confident, it seems, that the dog has no teeth.

On a clear day in Fleet Street you cannot often see tomorrow. What you can see is a thicket of restrictive covenants between frightened myopic managements and assertive but equally myopic trade unions. They have combined to set the national newspaper industry on a course of self-destruction. Unless every individual within this industry changes his attitude it will no longer be a question of whether or not Fleet Street will die by its own hand, but when.

For too long Fleet Street's workers have luxuriated in the notion that, however dimly their restrictive practices and weak managements might impair their companies' performance, there will always be another millionaire to come along and spend his money in the playpen. They have been vindicated by events, sadly. The idiosyncratic motivations of Fleet Street proprietors can be gauged only too clearly by their repeated reluctance to hold to an agreement among themselves on a common course of action to knock some sense and long-term viability into their industry.

The Fleet Street unions have thus had it all their own way since they confront weak and divided managements - so weak indeed that some of them seem almost explicitly prepared to put up with a wild-cat stoppage once a week in exchange for a quiet life on the other days - with some underlying solidarity. The Fleet Street unions may engage in fierce rivalry among themselves but none is prepared, when it comes to it, to support management action against

irregular behaviour by the others, or rules to gain control of their own members.

The closed shop in Fleet Street rules supreme; and as long as it does so national newspaper managements will operate as Vichy governments, the creatures of an occupying power. They have no real powers of hire and fire over their workers. They have no flexibility provided by alternative methods of production or distribution. They are dominated by the circadian imperatives of tonight's edition which, if lost, will sink without trace, revenue and all. The losses incurred through non-publication of the New Year's Day edition of Sunday papers, for instance, were £5m worth of travel advertising, which were transferred immediately to television. That is a measure of the competitive environment in which newspapers now have to operate.

They may not yet be exposed to foreign competition endowed with new technology which in Fleet Street is either suppressed, indefinitely postponed, or unduly overburdened with restrictive practices. But that competition is now appearing in the shape of the *Wall Street Journal* and the *International Herald Tribune*, printed fluently in many centres round the world. Closer to home the competition for advertising revenue has already extended beyond commercial television to local radio, magazines and the free-sheets, brought so much into prominence by Mr Eddie Shah of Warrington.

The writing is thus on the wall, even if it is seldom to be found in the newspapers themselves. Our readers frequently express astonishment at Fleet Street's repeated disruptions and the apparent inability of this industry to put its house in order. That is in sad contrast to the way we tell everybody else how to do it. We should be, and are ashamed of ourselves, and our readers are right to be astonished.

UP TO A POINT, MR LAWSON

Mr Nigel Lawson's tax-gathering ways are earning him a lot of enemies. Yesterday the House of Commons select committee on energy joined the banks and building societies in their chorus of disapproval of the Chancellor's thirst for cash. The committee of MPs has strong and long-established principles against the Treasury's use of nationalized industries as tax milch-cows - which are more important than the detailed dispute as to whether the industry should put prices up 2 per cent this spring. The banks and building societies now suspect, with anger, that they are next in line for Mr Lawson's milking parlour. Here the principles may be on Mr Lawson's side; but the practice, so far, is not.

Britain's financial institutions operate within a maze of fiscal privilege and disadvantage that diverts free choice in personal savings and impedes competition. As the building societies have come to operate more like banks, and vice versa, differences in their tax treatment have become a peculiarly glaring example of such distortion. Mr Nigel Lawson has halfheartedly announced two changes that remove some of the differences - one deliberately, but through an Inland Revenue reinterpretation of existing law, the other through an unintended leak from the banks. In theory, any change which moves towards a more equal tax treatment is welcome.

In practice, these two particular changes are worrying. The first - charging building societies capital gains tax at 40 per cent on their holdings of gilts - is less disturbing. Although the building societies claim it will hold up mortgage rates, the £100 million or so it will raise is only a modest blow to the societies' finances. Of more concern is the timing of the announcement, in the course of a financial year, and the nerves it has hit in other financial institutions which now wonder what lies in store for them.

The second change - obliging the banks to pay interest net of the same kind of "composite" tax rate agreed with the building societies - is much more questionable. Such a composite rate is calculated by estimating the number of recipients who might not be taxpayers, and then lowering the rate of tax charged on all interest to reflect this. The composite rate might therefore be higher for the banks than the building societies, but it would be lower than the standard rate of tax. This, effectively redistributes income from the poor (who now have to pay tax) to the better-off (whose tax rate is cut).

At first sight, the change has many compensating advantages. Much bank interest escapes tax altogether, because taxpayers neglect to declare small sums. It could, therefore, be quite a money-raiser for the Chancellor. The non-taxpayer, who should never put money in a building

society anyway, merely loses another haven for his funds. There remains national savings: if more money is diverted there. Meanwhile, the banks are forced to carry out more of the job of tax collecting, permitting substantial savings in Inland Revenue staff.

But there are overwhelming disadvantages. By narrowing the choice for the small, non-tax-paying saver and directing cash towards the public purse, the chancellor is introducing more distortion, of a kind that should be alien to his philosophy. What is more, having much reduced the real level of the public sector borrowing requirement, he has much less need of such tricks. They will operate unfairly against the interests of those too poor to pay tax unless he now announces a further change.

Both banks and building societies should - as soon as possible - be obliged to pay interest net of tax at the standard rate. They should issue tax credits that can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers. There is a difficulty, in that the Inland Revenue does not keep records of people below the tax threshold: for both sides, it could be a cumbersome process proving the claimant was not due to pay tax. This would reduce the savings on Inland Revenue manpower, and might discourage some claimants. It would be better than taking tax they do not owe from all of them.

ENTER THE DARK HORSE

It is, of course, absurd that a handful of voters in the tiny state of New Hampshire should be able to transform the political scenery of the United States but that is how it has been for many years and will probably remain for many more. The New Hampshire primary, only slightly displaced by the Iowa caucus, has long been the traditional launching pad for the presidential election. It has now launched Senator Gary Hart into the centre of the arena, giving him a surprising victory on Tuesday that guarantees him at least two weeks of the new media star at the centre of attention. Then comes "super Tuesday", March 13, when several simultaneous primaries could either wipe him off the board or lift him to within reach of the Democratic nomination.

It is still difficult to believe that he could actually get the nomination. His campaign is too small and poorly financed to compete with the juggernaut put together by Mr Walter Mondale, who remains by far the front runner for the nomination in

national opinion polls. But even if he does not make it, Senator Hart has enlivened the campaign and established himself as a serious contender with something important to say.

For years he has been arguing that the Democratic Party must become a party of ideas and programmes instead of a loose coalition of interests. He failed to gather congressional Democrats around this notion and until this week he seemed to be failing to gather wider support. The party establishment turned to the more conventional Mr Mondale.

But Senator Hart pressed on, encouraged by a memorandum, written last autumn by a pollster formerly associated with President Carter, arguing that the only candidate who could beat Mr Reagan would be one who could turn the contest into a discussion of clearly defined ideas on America's future.

This view precisely fitted Senator Hart's belief that America is facing an array of new challenges - industrial,

educational, social, economic and military - and that new ideas are required to meet them. He presents himself as a man of the computer age grappling with the problems of change and modernization.

His fresh approach obviously went down well among young and middle class voters in New Hampshire. Whether it will move less intellectual areas of the country is much less certain, but given the yearning of the media for new faces and new angles he now has an opportunity to grab national attention, revive interest in the campaign, and perhaps join Mr Mondale into a bit of new thinking. So far the omens for the campaign have not looked promising: an elderly incumbent to be challenged by a candidate who often looks as if his main concern is to avoid offending one or other of the many groups on which he depends for support. Senator Hart's attempt to talk about issues and define the shape of America's future can do nothing but good.

Higher education restrictions

From Mr Giles Radice, MP for Durham North (Labour) and Mr Andrew Bennett, MP for Denon and Redditch (Labour)

Sir, We were frankly amazed that your only mention of the Labour Party response to the University Grants Committee and the National Advisory Board's documents on the future of higher education was a one sentence coda to an important but entirely different story about the AMA (Association of Metropolitan Authorities) reaction to the Government White Paper, *Training for Jobs* (February 24).

As David Smith, of the Royal Society, points out (February 27), the Government seems intent on restricting the terms of the debate on what should happen to higher education to a consideration of ways of cutting provision. Apparently the Government sees the whole exercise as little more than a propaganda smokescreen to disguise a Government-induced contraction.

The truth is that the decline in the numbers of 18-year-olds creates an opportunity to "open up" access to much wider and more diverse range of students. Policies to raise expectations and achievement in our schools, as well as adequate financial support for 16 to 19-year-olds, should ensure that a larger proportion of the age group enters higher education. And we believe that greater chances must be provided for mature students. The late 1980s and 1990s, far from being a period of contraction and retrenchment, should be years of innovation and change.

If we are to ensure that the opportunity is not wasted, then our higher education institutions will need to show considerable initiative and adaptability. In return, the wider community must be prepared to provide security of funding - a marked contrast to the uncertainty and telescoped planning horizons of the last few years.

The task now, for all those genuinely concerned about the future of higher education (which we hope includes *The Times*) is to make the case for it vigorously and publicly. The argument cannot be won by remaining silent.

Yours etc,
GILES RADICE (Shadow Education Spokesman),
ANDREW BENNETT (Opposition spokesman on Higher Education),
House of Commons,
February 27.

Judgment on television

From Mr Paul Dunstan
Sir, Two eminent members of the legal profession have been criticising Yorkshire Television's projected series, *Case on Camera*.

Mr Michael Wright, QC, Chairman of the Bar, condemns the series as "showbiz" (report, February 15). That, of course, is his word. In television terms it is being produced by this company's factual programmes department, not by its drama or light entertainment departments. In any case, during the period of the actual arbitration hearing there will not be one person who has or has had any connexion with so-called show business. Had it been otherwise Judge King-Hamilton would not have agreed to arbitrate.

It is true, as Mr Wright points out, that arbitrations are normally held in private, but they do not have to be so conducted. In this series the drama will have agreed to the cases being arbitrated in public, in the sense that they will be televised. They are free to make that choice.

The cameras will be deliberately unobtrusive, if not completely hidden and, once a case has begun, the concentration of the parties will be on presenting their respective cases, not on unseen cameras. Moreover, as all the evidence will be on oath (or by affirmation) it is difficult to see why the truth should be any less forthcoming than in a non-televised hearing. When someone is interviewed on television is he less or more likely to speak the truth?

Our second critic to go into print is his Honour Lyall Wilkes (letter, February 22). His four-point condemnation of our programme is, of course, familiar to us.

Judge Wilkes should know that Judge King-Hamilton was approached in August, 1982. He also opposed any attempt at a "pretend" law court. But, after patient discussion between us agreement was reached on the arbitration of small claims in the manner now intended.

The distinction may seem to be small but I am told that its importance will be appreciated by any lawyer.

I am aware of the difficulties which sometimes arise when litigants appear in person, but surely the difficulties tend to lessen when both parties are self-represented and the contest becomes less one-sided?

Yours sincerely,
PAUL DUNSTAN, Producer,
Case on Camera,
Yorkshire Television,
The Television Centre,
Leeds,
February 24.

Organ transplants

From Mr Richard Tracey, MP for Strilinton (Conservative)

Sir, It was a pity that Bernard Levin (February 17) was much less than helpful, even arguably destructive, about the House of Commons debate on Sir John Biggs-Davison's private member's motion on the donation of organs for transplants. I felt, as one who has in the past shared Mr Levin's position as a journalist viewing Parliament from outside but is now a member, thoughtful and constructive.

I think I can also say, as one of the speakers who did not speak in support of a "contracting out" system by the public so deplored by Mr Levin, that this aspect was most

Ministration for second marriages

From the Chancellor of the dioceses of Durham, Southwark and Gloucester

Sir, The excellent article on "The marriage bond" in *The Times* of February 25 states that "in the Church of England there are many theologies of marriage". It would be more accurate to say that in the Church of England there are many persons holding various views of the nature of marriage, as is probably also the case in other churches.

In the Church of England there is in fact only one official doctrine, namely, that marriage is indissoluble. That is why both before the Reformation and afterwards no Church would ever grant what today we call a decree of divorce, leaving the parties free to contract second marriages.

In 1857, by Act of Parliament, jurisdiction in matters matrimonial was removed from the Church courts and bestowed on a new secular court, now known as the Family Division of the High Court. The same Act for the first time made a decree of divorce (in the modern sense of the term) possible, and thereafter this secular court has granted such decrees of divorce which no Church court would ever do.

The view of the Church courts that marriage is indissoluble has since been endorsed on at least three occasions by the Church's legislatures and is embodied in the current canons of the Church and in the Book of Common Prayer.

If General Synod should now pass legislation permitting second marriages in church to those who have a first spouse living, it will be changing the centuries old doctrine of the Church of England.

This is a grave step to take and it is frightening to know that today General Synod feels free to take such a step, despite the fact so large a number of its members are totally untrained in the law of canon law.

It is still more frightening that the bishops, who are the traditional guardians of sound doctrine, should be content to leave such a decision to so inexperienced a body without first seeking clearance from a body of trained theologians and canonists.

Theology is today at a low ebb in the Church of England; but in the convocations there is at least a chance that, after due discussion and guidance, a more informed view might be expressed, which could then be submitted to the consensus *fidelium* of the laity in General Synod.

Your obedient servant,
E. GARTH MOORE,
Corpus Christi College,
Cambridge,
February 27.

From the Reverend R. S. Gibson
Sir, The decision of the bishops to consult their parish clergy about the proposed Option G Scheme for remarriage in church has led to a widespread rejection of that proposal due to the cumbersome and bureaucratic method by which applications would have been handled.

I believe, however, that a sizable majority of the parish clergy welcome the bishops' response to our hesitations and would gladly consider remarriage in church in certain circumstances. We are, however, deeply concerned at the high divorce figures and committed to the view that marriage should be a lifelong relationship and would oppose the proposed changes in the divorce laws at present before Parliament that would enable divorce proceedings to be commenced at the end of one rather than three years.

Critics of modern music

From Mr John E. Sanderson

Sir, In your letter (February 21) Mr John Lambert and his colleagues, speaking of recent attacks in your columns on modern music, remark that "a vein of philistinism seems to be creeping into the columns of your esteemed paper".

This is not a new phenomenon. In *The Times* of June 12, 1855, Mr J. W. Davison, writing of Wagner's overture to *Tannhauser*, said: "We sincerely hope that no execution, however swift, ever make such senseless discord pass, in England, for a manifestation of art and genius."

This, and many other examples of bigotry and wrongheadedness drawn from the writings of critics in most "musical" nations, can be found in Nicholas Slonimsky's excellent *Lexicon of Musical Invective* (University of Washington Press).

I commend this book, documenting the errors of understanding and lack of tolerance of professional critics writing of most major composers from Beethoven onwards to all who, like Mr Lambert and his colleagues (and me), shudder at the flatfooted and ill-natured "certainties" of people like your contributors.

Perhaps the best verdict is the one quoted by Mr Slonimsky in his foreword (Philip Hale, commenting

on the marriage commission report emphasis was laid on the centrality of the relationship between husband and wife. The relationship was seen as one that needed to be worked at and deepened. It was also recognized by the majority that if this did not happen it would wither and die and, in the circumstances, the majority felt that it was realistic to recognize this fact and accept.

It is to be hoped that members of the General Synod will heed this advice and enable those of us who are deeply troubled by the apparent failure of the Church to respond to those who come and seek its blessing having suffered as a result of failed first marriage.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT GIBSON,
Halifax Vicarage,
Skircoat Green Road,
Halifax,
West Yorkshire,
February 27.

From the Reverend John T. Martin
Sir, Your leader, "The marriage bond", proceeds by right arguments to wrong conclusions. This is because of the unfounded contention that "services of blessing" after a register office marriage are "tainted with ambiguity and a suspicion of hypocrisy". But there need not be either, as many couples who have enjoyed such a service will testify.

In these services the Church is seeking God's good hand upon a union which it hesitates, though the state does not, to call a marriage. Thus it preserves its marriage teaching intact, while at the same time offering the couple the help and comfort they need.

It is hard to see how this well established practice would differ from what you recommend, namely "a standard form . . . designed solely to help the couple to be together in the presence of God".

Yours sincerely,
J. T. MARTIN,
All Saints Vicarage,
15 Woodbine Avenue,
Kingston upon Thames,
Surrey,
February 25.

From Prebendary H. F. Warren
Sir, Many of us who have agonised over the "conflicting priorities" will, I am sure, be grateful for your excellent leader of February 25, and especially for your verdict that "Option G" was a "pretty fair attempt of which the Synod need not be ashamed". Not everyone would agree, however, that "what the Church has been trying to achieve is unobtainable".

The Church of England is, in fact, the only part of Christendom which offers no relief to those whose marriage has failed. Other churches offer a variety of procedures by which such people can marry again in church, but there is no evidence that those procedures have either undermined the Christian ideal of lifelong marriage or led to a significant increase in the number of divorces.

Why should the Church of England throw up the sponge now? The General Synod will be trying again on Thursday morning and I hope and pray that we shall make some progress, because the search must go on.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY WARREN,
The Rectory,
West Monkton,
Taunton,
Somerset,
February 27.

on Hanslick's tirade against Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto). I think that the violence of Dr Hanslick was as much inspired by the desire to write a readable article as by any just indignation.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN SANDERSON,
54 Victoria Street,
Egham, Surrey.

Countryside heritage

From Mr David Green
Sir, David Lupton-Phillips (February 21) is right to point out that farmers require planning permission for developments which exceeds the general development order tolerances. I hope, however, he will forgive me for taking some of the shine off that point.

If planning permission is refused for farm development and the Secretary of State upholds that refusal on appeal, the farmer is one of the few people still able to claim compensation. This does tend to inhibit planning authorities in refusing planning applications - and secretaries of state in upholding them.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GREEN,
Rhyd yr Harding,
Castle Morris,
Nr Haverfordwest, Dyfed.

Arts subject to political curb?

From Professor Alexander Goehr

Sir, The Hanns Eisler Ensemble w. set up to perform mainly twentieth century music. Some of the repertoire is connected with radical political themes. Recently the commissioned a new, up-date version of Brecht and Eisler's *71 Mother* from Margaretta D'Arcy an John Arden, who decided to place in contemporary Ireland.

The text expresses opposition to British policy in Northern Ireland and, furthermore, places this in the wider context of NATO policy. The Eisler Ensemble were in receipt of guarantee against loss from the Arts Council of Great Britain. This was withdrawn because, it was said, the intention was "to make political propaganda in favour of the IRA".

This was strongly denied in a press statement issued by the Eisler Ensemble. The Arts Council, in fact had not seen the D'Arcy/Arden text the point at issue was that the design of the publicity leaflet had featured in the background some small graffiti which included the device "IRA".

Regardless of one's views on British policy in Northern Ireland or elsewhere, are we to understand that the Arts Council does not support concerts which include material hostile to current policy? Or do they not support concerts which have any political content? Or is Northern Ireland singled out as a topic which is not to be discussed, in this form at least?

The decision by the Arts Council implies that there are political guidelines about the use of public money for promoting the arts. In view of this case, would it not be a good thing that the public be informed what these guidelines are, how and by whom they are applied, and what is their legal status?

Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER GOEHR,
University of Cambridge,
Faculty of Music,
University Music School,
West Road,
Cambridge,
February 24.

Muck and brass

From Mr J. D. Sutherland

Sir, Sarah Hogg (February 20) claims convincingly that the statistical scale of the decline in manufacturing is misleading in that it often conceals a simple switch from employment to contract.

Surely the most prosperous people in the U.K. today are those who wouldn't touch manufacturing with a bargepole - the moneylenders, the brokers, the middlemen, the agents. Every month the lists of company liquidations grow longer: there is unfortunately scant evidence that the position is going to improve.

Yours,
J. D. SUTHERLAND,
41 Westlake Way,
Kirkcaldy,
Fife,
North Humber-side,
February 22.

Tom Keating as faker

From Mr John Ford

Sir, Tilly Marshall (February 22) is unjust to the late Tom Keating. As the solicitor who represented him at the Central Criminal Court in 1979 I hope you will allow me to correct the misleading impression left by Mrs Marshall's letter.

Mrs Marshall is apparently disappointed that Tom Keating was not convicted. It must be pointed out that he had never previously been accused of any crime and he denied all the charges he faced, but the jury were never asked to decide the matter.

The case was dropped because the Attorney General intervened when it became clear to the expert physicians attending Tom Keating in hospital that he could not survive the ordeal of a resumed trial. Sadly, this prediction has proved all too accurate; and Mr Keating and his family have been deprived of the opportunity to clear his name.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN FORD,
Bindman & Partners, Solicitors,
1 Euston Road,
King's Cross, NW1,
February 27.

From Mr B. Yuill

Sir, As a painter myself I appreciate Tilly Marshall's rebuke (February 22) of Tom Keating's faking.

However, like all dealers she misses the humorous side of the matter. It was the pomposity of art dealers which suffered most at his hand; and for that I, like most painters, applaud him.

Yours,
BARRY YUILL,
The Cottage,
High Street,
Gloucestershire,
February 22.

Farewell to arms

From Mr S. E. MacKenzie

Sir, Mr J. Harris (February 22) should see in the funeral gun carriage the sombre truth that "from the morning watch even until night", deterrence is a part of peace. So, too, if and when the international authority the United Nations' disarmament sessions envisage comes to be, it also will need "gun carriages" if it is effectively to love the peace.

Yours faithfully,
S. E. MACKENZIE,
Trefusis,
Cavendish Road,
Weybridge,
Surrey,
February 24.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

A brutish approach to tax gathering

The year 1984 is already turning out to be an annus mirabilis for the Inland Revenue - the spring Budget is still two weeks away.

The Dawson judgment in the House of Lords on February 9 appears to have elevated motivation above the law should the Revenue wish to challenge any tax avoidance scheme. The decision, on "legal advice", to alter the basis of taxing building societies' capital gains in the course of a tax year favours the Exchequer at the expense of the saver and the home-buyer.

The letter to the banks inviting them to prepare for the composite rate treatment hitherto reserved for building societies is a brutish way to deal with non-payers, whatever may be said for it in terms of Revenue convenience, extra and earlier tax gathering and equality of treatment for banks and building societies. A triple jump of this magnitude is worth more than gold.

And there seems a very good chance that the Revenue will also succeed in changing the basis of taxing companies' overseas earnings - an event of even greater significance.

Three themes have emerged in Mr Lawson's revenue wringing cycle: firstly, he is determined to treat equally financial institutions competing in similar markets; secondly, the burden of collecting taxes will be transferred wherever possible from the Revenue onto other shoulders; and lastly the campaign against tax evasion/avoidance will be pursued with fresh and unremitting vigour. The Revenue is redeploying 850 of its strength against moonlighters, and turning banks into tax collectors will catch bank interest not hitherto declared in tax returns.

Not all the details of this proposed change have been worked out. The Treasury has refused all comment and it is apparently furious that *The Times* revealed its intentions, in advance of the Budget. Replying to a parliamentary question from Mr Jim Craigie, Labour MP for Glasgow, Maryhill, that the Chancellor publish the letter to the banks on introducing a composite rate system, Mr Ian Stewart, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said the Chancellor had many confidential exchanges and it was not practice to publish them.

The incendiary device is the probable exclusion of National Savings, which would leave the Government as the monopoly supplier of tax-paid interest savings schemes. It would suit the Government's book to raise more funds through National Savings and so reduce the need to sell gilts.

Banks with a large proportion of elderly, low-income savers, would see their customers deserting them. The Trustee Savings Bank, which is due to be privatized, would be especially vulnerable because of its relatively downmarket customer profile.

The one certainty is that a switch to a composite rate system will force the banks to compete more aggressively for personal sector deposits. The new high-interest bank account launched by Save & Prosper specifically to cream off the banks' best customers, is the latest evidence of fierce rivalry in this market.

Two cheers for good intentions

Perhaps because the minister concerned is an accountant, reforms in insolvency law passionately canvassed by Sir Kenneth Cork in his June, 1982, report have not been left to gather dust in a Whitehall filing cabinet. That said, legislation proposed now by the Government is strictly a mandarin measure.

Difficult issues have been fudged or simply avoided. The status of the Inland Revenue and local authorities as preferential creditors would remain in law and that of public utilities (gas, electricity, British Telecom) would remain in practice. Without some give here the chance of persuading banks to leave a little of their floating charges to relieve the distress of small suppliers who often go under when a company fails is nil. No direct relief is extended to victims of rogue traders who move effortlessly, and profitably, from company to company. No thorough reform of court procedures is envisaged.

Instead, the White Paper puts great emphasis on "privatizing" as much as possible of both company and personal insolvency, supposedly to leave the Insolvency Service of the Department of Trade free for more serious investigation and prosecution within its straitened budget. There is clearly scope for simplifying smaller personal bankruptcy procedures and for unclogging the courts. It is questionable, however, whether reducing rather than extending official involvement will help stamp out fraud.

The White Paper's substantive proposals are welcome. Apart from the direct action on headline abuses by directors and cowboy liquidators, the penalties on compulsory liquidation and the threat of personal liability under the new, but as yet not properly worked out, concept of "wrongful trading". Should help both customers and suppliers. The trade department has moved cautiously and carefully across no-man's-land between establishing public confidence in limited liability on the one hand and deterring would-be business venturers on the other. The most intriguing proposal, taken after much heart-searching from the Cork Report, is a new figure dalled the administrator, who can be appointed at an earlier stage of the slide to insolvency.

On the surface, the administrator looks like a move towards the successful American system, which allows companies to apply for a debt moratorium to carry out their own rescue plan under Chapter 11 of the bankruptcy code. The obvious difference is that the administrator would be a court-appointed official and an accountant, not the company's existing management or trouble-shooting new management.

Those differences and the administrator's limited discretion to carry on business beg the question of whether he will be anything more than a glorified receiver, with wider responsibilities to shareholders as well as creditors, but still with a receiver's mentality and liabilities. Manifestly there is plenty of room for adjustments before the Bill is drafted into as well as during the bill's committee stage. For the moment, Mr Fletcher rates two cheers.

New respite for Scott Lithgow shipyard

By Jonathan Davis
Financial Correspondent

Scott Lithgow was given a further temporary reprieve yesterday when Trafalgar House confirmed that it was continuing with its bid for the yard despite the lapsing of its original takeover agreement with British Shipbuilders.

Bechtel, one of the two rival bidders for the threatened Clydebank yard, admitted publicly for the first time however that it may soon be forced to drop out of the running because of political and union objections to its plans.

The Government meanwhile confirmed that it is providing British Shipbuilders with an extra £125m this financial year as a contingency to cover the possibility that all the takeover attempts fail and the yard has to close. This is the first official indication of the considerable public expenditure cost associated with the Scott Lithgow crisis.

The original "conditional agreement" between Trafalgar House and British Shipbuilders for the takeover of Scott Lithgow was signed on February 8, and set the end of February as the deadline for completion of negotiations.

Trafalgar House said last night that the agreement has lapsed, and the company would not be seeking formally to renegotiate it. "But since nobody else has made an offer, we are still hanging on in the hope of being able to rescue the yard," a spokesman said. "We assume that we can pick up the agreement again later if need be."

Trafalgar House denied that it had set a new deadline for completing its takeover, but reiterated its long-standing argument that time was getting very short for any bid to be completed. British Shipbuilders also confirmed that the original agreement had lapsed, but said that since neither party has withdrawn their agreement, it could be revived. Rumours that Bechtel might be about to withdraw from the bidding for Scott Lithgow have been circulating for some days. Its intention has been to make an offer in harness with a group of Scottish financial institutions.

The company said last night that it was still in negotiations with British Shipbuilders but would complete the £88m North Sea rig which British cancelled before Christmas. A spokesman said: "We are still in the running, but we recognize that there are a number of aspects of our plans for the yard which may not be acceptable either politically or to British Shipbuilders or to the unions. These problems could become insurmountable."

Bechtel's plans include making all the existing workforce redundant and closing the yard completely for three months before reemploying workers, whereas Trafalgar House has promised to keep on at least 1,500 of the yard's workforce.

Howard Davis, the Anglo-French construction company which is still in the running for Scott Lithgow, has promised to make submissions to British Shipbuilders by the end of this week.

Dispute mars launch of life insurance commissions register

By William Kay and Andrew Cornelius

The main life insurance companies were attempting yesterday to patch up their differences after the controversial decision to go ahead with there plan to introduce self-regulation of sales commissions on life policies.

The decision to go ahead with Rolac - the Register of Life Assurance Commissions - was taken by companies accounting for about 75 per cent of new annual-premium policies sold in Britain each year, and about 60 per cent of single-premium policies. They included around 30 of the top names including Sun Alliance, Scottish Widows, Abbey Life, the Prudential and the Pearl.

However eight companies abstained - including Save & Prosper - at the meeting called to decide on Rolac, and two traditional life companies, UK Provident and National Mutual, have refused to join unless fundamental changes are made to the agreement.

Mr Stamp Brooksbank, the chairman of UK Provident, said yesterday that the Rolac agreement is too narrowly based and should include the activities of tied agents and self-employed direct salesmen. Unless

a commissions agreement included all salesmen, there would be insufficient protection for the consumer, he claimed. However, UK Provident stressed that favoured the introduction of a voluntary market commissions agreement and would continue trying to persuade other companies to amend Rolac.

One solution would be to introduce a two-tier commissions agreement for insurance brokers and tied agents, and another for self-employed salesmen. UK Provident may try to enlist the support of Professor Laurence Jim Gower whose report on investor protection favoured some control of life insurance commissions.

Mr Brian Wright at Sun Alliance, who has spearheaded the campaign to introduce Rolac, said yesterday that he hoped that UK Provident could be persuaded to reconsider. The problems could be thrashed out by an existing working party which included representatives of the major companies, he said.

"This positive commitment to self-regulation by the major party of the life assurance

industry is a significant step in the protection of the consumer," he added. "It is very much hoped that all sectors of the industry will now give their backing to the agreement and help in the solution of the remaining problem areas."

The new scheme planned to be introduced from next January, has been developed as a result of the Life Offices' Association decision to scrap its commissions agreement with effect from January 1 last year.

Rolac, which takes in non-LOA member companies, aims to replace the old agreement with a system of differential commissions for different classes of specialist insurance brokers and other intermediaries.

The registrar will play a crucial role. As many as five member offices will have to satisfy him that a broker is worthy of being accepted into a specialist category.

Rolac is the industry's attempt to ward off the threat of government intervention.

Civil servant in line for OECD post

By Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

Sir Kenneth Couzens, permanent secretary at the Department of Energy, is being proposed by the Government for one of two top jobs in the international economic institutions.

The plum post is secretary-general of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, filled for the past 15 years by a Dutchman, Mr Emile van Lennep. However, Sir Kenneth is also in the running to head the International Energy Agency, a job also likely to fall vacant this summer.

Members of the OECD, which include all major industrial countries, failed to agree on a successor the Mr van Lennep when his last two-and-a-half-year term of office expired. The job, based in Paris, traditionally goes to a European.

But since a Frenchman is managing director of the International Monetary Fund, strong candidates from France - Mr Raymond Barre has been mentioned, among others - are not thought to be acceptable to other members.



Sir Kenneth Couzens: Proposed by British Government

There remains a much mentioned German, Heer Lieser Kiep, a former finance minister of Lower Saxony, and Britain's Sir Kenneth. Mr Christopher McMahon, deputy governor of the Bank of England, was at one time thought to be a strong candidate but does not now appear interested.

Sir Kenneth cannot quite rival Mr McMahon's formidable experience in international affairs, but his two years in charge of overseas side of the Treasury were generally accounted a success.

Societies attract £900m

By Peter Wilson-Smith
Banking Correspondent

Building societies attracted more than £900m of savings last month and the final figure for net receipts could be higher than January's £926m, which was the second best month on record. Societies also raised about £50m from wholesale sources but with demand for mortgages picking up strongly, there are still doubts whether mortgage rates will come down much after the Budget.

Mr Herbert Walden, chairman of the Building Societies Association, renewed the attack on the Government for doubling the societies' tax bill by changing the rules on how gilt profits are taxed. In a speech last night, he said that building society members would have to foot the bill and mortgage rates would be higher or investment rates lower than would otherwise be the case.

Dollar at DM low

The dollar fell to a low point of Deutsche mark 2.5855 in the foreign exchanges yesterday after the announcement that January's American trade deficit hit a monthly record of \$9.47 billion. But although confidence in the dollar remains low, it recovered slightly to close only 40 points lower on the day at DM2.5960.

The unexpectedly sharp jump in US leading indicators had little effect.

Sterling showed some temporary nervousness after the British trade figures were announced. It was easier against some leading currencies, its trade-weighted value slipping 0.1 to 83.3. The pound closed 35 points down at \$1.4905 still 1.65 cents higher than the close on Tuesday.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 1040.3 up 1.1 (day's high: 1040.8 Low: 1032.2)
FT Index: 819.8 up 0.7
FT Gilt: 82.64 down 0.08
FT All Share: 493.12 down 0.30
Bargains: 25,095
Datastream USM Leaders Index 108.58 up 0.36
New York: Dow Jones Industrial (latest) 1157.24 up 0.10
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 10,030.70 down 43.08
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1059.29 up 17.73
Amsterdam: 168.3 down 0.4
Sydney: AO Index 974.2 down 7.3
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1020.9 down 7.6
Brussels: General Index 140.40 down 0.95
Paris: CAC Index 141.40 down 2.90
Zurich: SCA General 305.60 down 2.90

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.4905 down 35pts
Index 83.3 up 0.1
DM 3.8750 down 0.0125
FF 11.9050 up 0.0950
Yen 348 down 1.0
Dollar Index 126.6 up 0.4
DM 2.5960 down 0.0040
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.6105
Dollar DM 1.4870
INTERNATIONAL
ECU 20.577739

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 9½
Discount market loans week fixed 9½
3 month interbank 9½-2-½
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10½-½
3 month DM 5½-5½
3 month Fr 16½-16½
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9½
Treasury long bond 99-99½

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
ask \$396.80 pm \$394.25
close \$394.75-\$395.25 (\$265-285.50)
New York (latest): \$394.50
Kruggerand (per coin): \$407-408.50 (\$273.50-274.50)
Sovereigns (new): \$93-94 (\$62.50-63.25)
*Excludes VAT

H Samuel pays £29m for rival

COMPANY NEWS

H. Samuel, the northern jeweller with 300 branches, launched an agreed £29m takeover bid yesterday for its rivals, James Walker Goldsmith & Silversmith.

Samuel is offering cash or cash and shares to gain control of the jewellers, whose 110 branches concentrated in the south will give Samuel a nationwide network.

Rumours of a counter bid were ebbing away last night although The Northern Goldsmiths Company is said to have been a persistent buyer of Walker shares.

James Walker was on Samuel's shopping list last autumn. Under the new management of Mr Anthony Dignum and Mr Anthony Edgar, Samuel needed a strategy. Profits had fallen from £3.4m to £3.2m last year although they are expected to recover to around £5m for the 12 months to January 28 on which an unchanged total 6.25p dividend will be paid.

As discussions were about to start, Cecil Gee, the men's outfitters bought 14.5 per cent of Walker through the market. Last night, Gee said it was watching events. Gee's shares added 4p to 135p.

The terms are 158p cash for each Walker ordinary, up 11p to 163p last night, and 131p cash for each Walker non-voting, up 11p to 133p in the market. Samuel is offering its non-voting shares as an alternative for up to 40 per cent of the total consideration on the basis of six for every five Walker voters and one for each Walker non-voter. Samuel's price was unchanged at 142p.

Samuel proposes to make a maximum 8.4 million non-voters available, but if fewer than 4 million are needed, N M Rothschild, the company's merchant bankers has promised to find buyers at 129p to ensure the issue. The bankers said the

underwriting was completed in full yesterday.

General Accident

General Accident, Britain's largest motor insurer and a significant force in the troubled American insurance market, yesterday followed Commercial Union in giving a warning of continuing poor trading conditions and heavy weather losses in the first quarter of 1984.

The recent gales and rainy weather have cost General Accident £10m-£15m, Mr Nelson Robertson, the general manager, said. However, General Accident came through 1983 with increased pre-tax profits of £65.6m (£21m the previous year) and worldwide underwriting losses which fell slightly from £153.8m to £150.2m compared with 1982.

The group's US underwriting losses increased from £40m to £56.3m, due largely to Hurricane Alicia, which cost the company £10m, echoing Commercial Union's experience.

In Britain, underwriting losses fell from £72.7m to £57.5m with losses being cut on both the commercial property and homeowners' account. Worldwide premium income grew by 8 per cent to £1,395m, while investment income increased by 5 per cent to £212m.

The board is recommending payment of total dividend for the year of 19p per share, against 17p.

Marley

Big gains from Marley's traditional roofing business and from the newer Payless do-it-yourself stores has more than offset the building material company's profits. Volume sales of concrete roofing tiles

were up by 40 per cent against an industry increase of 29 per cent.

The strong performance boosted profits from £12.1m to £28.2m last year despite yet another set of disappointing figures from the American subsidiary, Ingrid. The good sales of roof tiles reflects local authority spending on house refurbishment, but the reduction in the improvement grant from 90 per cent to 75 per cent will slow growth this year. Analysts expect the company to make around £35m for the current year. The dividend has been raised from 2.5p to 3.2p.

Cope Allman

The new-look Cope Allman International, with Mr Michael Ashcroft in the chair and Mr Michael Doherty as managing director, has turned in half-year profits of £3.3m against last year's loss of £882,000.

Mr Doherty said: "This means that over the last 12 months we have made profits of £6.5m in calendar year 1982 we barely broke even."

Last year, cope successfully fought off a 60p or share takeover bid from a consortium led by Mr Ashcroft, who became chairman after increasing the stake held by his Hawley Group to 29.9 per cent. Cope's good figures stem from higher sales and lower costs, helped by a move to cheaper London offices.

In brief

● Harris Queensway is expected to report an extremely high level of acceptances today for its £35m contested bid for Stylo. Indications from shareholders suggest the figure will be more than 50 per cent, a level unprecedented for the first closing date of an offer, which normally nets under 1 per cent.

Such a level of acceptances would back Harris' case for holding talks with the Stylo board which have so far been refused.

● Coleman Milne, a subsidiary of Hawley Group, which has a 14 per cent stake in Group Lotus, reported profits of £525,000 against £418,000 last year. The Group Lotus investment reduced earnings per share from 5.6p to 5.1p.

● Heywood Williams, the building materials group, announced that pre-tax profits rose from £847,000 to £2.4m in 1983, well above the £2m forecast at the time of last November's £2m rights issue. The final dividend is also better than promised, 3.5p, against the forecast of not less than 3p.

● A 47 per cent jump in profits and a 49 per cent boost to dividend income is being promised by Basset Foods, the licensee of the confectionery group, to try to persuade shareholders to reject a £16.4m takeover bid from Avana Group.

Pre-tax profits will rise from £1.7m last year to £2.5m in the year to the end of this month while a final dividend of 4.55p raising the total for the year to 3.6p will be recommended, the company's formal defence document sent to shareholders yesterday reveals.

● ICI and Wellcome Foundation are to merge their animal health into a new company called Coopers Animal Health. Wellcome will have 51 per cent control of the British operation, and ICI 51 per cent of Australian and New Zealand end.

● Edmond Holdings, the former Allied Residential house-building firm, made profits of £620,000 last year, after a loss of £2.1m in 1982. A final dividend of 0.72p a share makes a total of 1.05p, against nil before.

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General Accident

RESULTS FOR 1983

The audited accounts for the year to 31st December, 1983, will be published on 9th April, 1984, but preliminary and unaudited figures for 1983, with actual figures for 1982, are as follows:-

	1983 £m	1982 £m
Premium Income		
General Business	1,395.0	1,233.0
Long Term Business	132.0	125.1
	1,527.0	1,358.1
Profit and Loss Account		
Investment Income	212.5	195.5
Underwriting Results - General Business	(150.2)	(153.8)
Shareholders' Long Term Profits	4.9	4.5
	67.2	46.2
Less Interest on Loans	1.6	1.7
Profit before Taxation	65.6	44.5
Taxation - UK and Overseas	1.9	(9.1)
Profit after Taxation	63.7	53.6
Minority Interests and Preference Dividends	1.5	1.3
Profit for the year available to Ordinary Shareholders	62.2	52.3
Dividends	32.0	28.6
Retained Profits	30.2	23.7
Earnings per share	37.0p	31.3p
Dividend per share	19.0p	17.0p
Net Assets per Share	67.7p	54.9p

ANALYSIS BY TERRITORY OF GENERAL BUSINESS PREMIUM INCOME AND UNDERWRITING RESULT

	1983 £m	Underwriting Result £m	Principal exchange rate used	1982 £m	Underwriting Result £m	Principal exchange rate used
UK	488.2	(57.5)	-	469.3	(72.7)	-
USA	530.8	(56.3)	\$1.45	444.9	(40.0)	\$1.62
EEC other than UK	78.9	(12.3)	72.1	(14.9)	(5.7)	\$1.99
Canada	123.4	(10.6)	\$1.81	101.3	(5.1)	\$1.65
Australia	32.8	(4.6)	\$1.61	37.9	(5.1)	\$1.65
Others, including reinsurance	83.6	(4.5)	-	76.8	(8.4)	-
Marine and Aviation	37.3	(4.4)	-	30.7	(6.0)	-
	1,395.0	(150.2)		1,233.0	(153.8)	

* before internal reinsurance

Net written premiums and investment income increased in sterling terms by 13.1% and 8.7% respectively. After excluding the effects of currency fluctuations, the increases were 8.3% and 5.2% respectively. Investment income excludes £5.8m (1982 £3.8m) representing amortisation of US deep discount bonds which under the USA accounting conversions would be credited to earnings.

UNDERWRITING

In the fourth quarter there was an underwriting loss of £15.0m (1982 £20.1m loss) in the UK and a loss of £8.1m (1982 £7.2m loss) in the USA. Other markets produced losses of £13.8m (1982 £15.0m loss) including a loss of £7.9m (1982 £2.5m loss) in Canada. The overall underwriting loss for the quarter was £36.9m (1982 £42.3m loss) and the pre-tax profit for the quarter was £21.3m (1982 £10.9m profit).

For the full year in the UK, all major classes contributed to the loss. With a further rise in claims frequency, but with some benefit from the recent private car rate increase, the motor account produced a slightly reduced underwriting loss of £18.6m (1982 £20.6m loss). The Homeowners account with a loss of £11.8m (1982 £12.4m loss) and the Commercial Property account with a loss of £17.8m (1982 £30.2m loss) both show improvement arising from a reduction in the cost of weather related claims, but increasing theft losses have had a serious effect on these accounts. There was further deterioration in liability experience.

For the full year in the USA, net premiums written were \$799m (1982 \$721m). The 1983 operating ratio, adjusted to include the cost of policyholders' dividends was 109.79% as compared with 108.76% in 1982. The property class results were particularly affected by Hurricane "Alicia" (which alone cost £10m) and the severe winter weather, and the liability classes also showed further deterioration. Private auto experience, although still unprofitable, showed an improvement.

Elsewhere for the full year, there were aggregate underwriting losses of £36.4m (1982 £41.1m loss). Experience in Australia, despite the bush fires in first quarter, was slightly improved, but an adverse trend which had been developing in Canada sharply accelerated in the last quarter mainly due to weather losses. Losses in the EEC overall were slightly reduced but London Market business continued to be very unprofitable.

LIFE DEPARTMENT

There was an increased contribution to profit and loss account from our long term funds, which also reported record new business production as follows:

	1983 £m	1982 £m
New Life and Annuity Premiums		
Annual	33.1	22.4
Single	29.0	24.5

FINAL DIVIDEND FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1983

The Directors have decided to recommend to the Shareholders at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 2nd May, 1984, the payment of a final dividend on the Ordinary Shares of 11.0p per share making a total distribution for the year of 19.0p per share (1982 - 17.0p per share). The dividend will be payable on or after 1st July, 1984, to Shareholders on the register on 1st June, 1984.

NET ASSETS

The net asset value of the group increased during the year by £217m to £1,140m which improved the solvency margin to 81.7% of 1983 premium income (1982 75%).

29th February, 1984.

General Accident Fire & Life Assurance Corporation Ltd
World Headquarters, General Buildings, Perth, Scotland.

MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

Broker warns on life insurance

The influential Scottish stockbroker Wood Mackenzie has become the first broking firm to publicly urge the big City institutions to lighten their exposure to the life insurance market ahead of the Budget.

The message came as a shock to the market on Tuesday and remained an unsettling factor yesterday as prices continued to tumble. Wood Mackenzie feels certain that the Chancellor will be turning his attention on the financial sector in the forthcoming Budget as highlighted by the recent decision of the

Shares of George Wimpey have put up a fierce resistance action this week closing 1p lower at 157p yesterday after a line of over 7 million shares were put through the market on Monday at about the 150p level. There had been talk that the shares were to have been placed substantially below the true market level, but in the event applicants had to be scaled down.

Inland Revenue to tax building societies up to 40 per cent on all their investments. The chances of the life insurance sector escaping grow slimmer by the day.

On average the life insurance companies invest about 25 per cent of their total portfolio in gilts yesterday after a line of over 7 million shares were put through the market on Monday at about the 150p level. There had been talk that the shares were to have been placed substantially below the true market level, but in the event applicants had to be scaled down.

A spokesman for Wood Mackenzie said that the situation had become overblown, but maintained that investors should consider taking a "new

position". This had little effect on the life insurance market where prices continued to lose ground.

Britannic fell 8p to 495p, Equity & Law 12p to 805p, Hambro Life 8p to 456p, Legal & General 12p to 498p, London & Manchester Group 4p to 508p, Pearl Assurance 16p to 831p, Prudential Corporation 10p to 460p, Refuge Assurance 6p to 434p and Sun Life Assurance 17p to 614p.

The rest of the equity market decided to mark time awaiting the Chancellor's decision on stamp duty in the Budget. Most investors appear to have adopted the attitude of wait and see. The FT index ended the day a mere 0.7 up at 819.8, while the FT-SE added 1.1 to 1040.3.

Gilts encountered gains of up to 25p encouraged by the firmer pound on the foreign exchange market and renewed downward pressure on interest rates. The latest trade figures showing a deficit of £339m during January made little impact.

Dealers said the figures were difficult to interpret with exports taking a nose-dive and imports growing strongly. The high level of imports was worrying, but were mostly concentrated in the chemical sector rather than being broadly based.

Leading equities failed to establish any real trend. London Brick added 2p to 175p following Lord Hanson's victory for control of the company after gaining acceptances totalling 58 per cent. Dealers estimated that about 10 million

shares changed hands yesterday as investors bought the London Brick as a cheap way into Hanson Trust convertible.

Hanson Trust will take the place of London Brick as a constituent of the FT index.

Elsewhere, Associated Dairies rose 2p to 150p, BICC 10p to 270p, Beecham 5p to 318p, Glaxo 4p to 745p and Tate & Lyle 3p to 388p.

SCUSA, the American security company whose shares have traded on the US since last year's flotation, plans to seek a full quotation within the next six months. This may be followed by a Wall Street quote. Yesterday, SCUSA's shares were unchanged at 124p.

Plessey was another firm market climbing 1p to 223p on hopes of clinching a multi-million contract in the US. Wood Mackenzie reckons it could be the Tri-Tac programme in the US of which Plessey is a member of a consortium. Tri-Tac is part of a US defence communications project said to be worth in excess of \$4,000m. Plessey has already gained valuable experience of similar projects in both the UK and Australia.

Renewed fighting between Iran and Iraq was good news for the oil sector where most of the big oil producers enjoyed steady gains before profit taking took its toll. BP rose 6p to 431p, Barmah 1p to 181p, after 183p, British 2p to 248p and Ultramar 5p to 677p.

Among the industrial holding

companies London & Northern spurred 4p to 87p in late trading on news the group had renewed its hospital management contract with the Riyadh and Al Khariji Military hospitals in Saudi Arabia. The deal is estimated to be worth about £45m a year for London & Northern.

The leading High Street clearing banks recovered from a hesitant start ahead of this month's reporting season, but still closed below their overnight levels. Barclays slipped 2p to 542p, after 539p, Midland 2p to 387p, after 382p, Lloyds 2p to 597p, after 594p, and National Westminster 8p to 734p, 729p.

Insurance composites received the full year figures from General Accident well, but were disturbed by the warning on current trading. But after an initial shakeout the shares recovered on bear closing to end the day 14p higher at 460p. Small gains were also seen by Commercial Union 1p higher at 173p, Guardian Royal Exchange 3p to 516p, but Royal Insurance reporting later today slipped 1p to 503p.

Analysts have almost ruled out the prospect of any growth in pretax profits and most are looking for between £93m and £97m compared with £96.5m last time.

Among the insurance brokers Hogg Robinson wiped out an early 3p loss to close unchanged on the day at 172p. Despite a number of bearish broker's circulars urging investors to take profits the shares continue to attract support. This has

again given weight to the theory that a bidder may be waiting in the wings.

In stores there was another flurry of activity in Debenhams where the shares added 4p to 152p still awaiting final decision on the possible flotation of its Welbeck Finance subsidiary.

Among the newcomers Petrol, the British oil exploration group looking for oil in Texas, made a confident start opening with a healthy premium in first time dealings. The shares opened at 140p - a premium of 15p - compared with the offer

The big City institutions are continuing to take their profits in Anglo United, the Toronto-based open cast coal miner, ahead of June's full London listing. Yesterday, the stockbroker Simon & Coates, placed another 450,000 shares with the market leaving the price unchanged at 58p.

for sale price of 125p. The shares having hit 146p eventually closed at 143p. Petrol also plans to use the money to pay off existing debts and finance the acquisition of new leases in Texas.

On the Unlisted Securities Market, shares of Dewey Warren also opened at a premium after being placed at 105p. Dewey Warren is only the second Lloyds broker to be given a listing on the USM. The shares rose to 120p, but subsequent profit taking left the price at 115p - a premium of 8p.

Interest charges hit Johnson Matthey

By Michael Prest

Heavy interest charges depressed the pretax profits of Johnson Matthey, the precious metal, industrial and banking group, by £3m to £25.8m for the nine months to the end of December. Earnings per share slipped from 18.6p to 17p. Pretax profits for the third quarter went up by £200,000 to £10.6m.

Johnson Matthey also said that extraordinary debts stemming from the debacle which overtook its jewelry manufacturing and distribution operations in the United States will exceed the upper limit of £50m estimated three months ago.

The rise in interest charges, up sharply from £5.9m to £19.5m, has been caused by stocks accumulating at the West Deptford platinum refinery in New Jersey. But refinery production is now almost running at full capacity, and Johnson Matthey expects interest payments to fall during 1984.

While sales were markedly higher at £784m compared with £718m, trading profits for the nine months rose by 38 per cent to £41.2m. Improved sales of industrial products, including ceramics and colourings, produced the third successive quarterly profits increase.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Sterling closed the day just above \$1.49, after spending much of the trading session below it.

The dollar held a slightly better level against the pound until the US trade deficit was announced, then closed below DM 2.6 and under French fr 8 for the first time in many months.

Down 35 points on the overnight, the pound finished at 1.4905 after a high of 1.4955 in the early afternoon. The trade weighted index closed 0.1 down at 83.3, also reflecting easier sterling levels to the mark and French franc.

The dollar recovered slight ground on the better-than-expected 1.1 per cent rise in US economic indicators and the December revision.

MONEY MARKET

Money rates held firm for much of the day, though the shortage was a fairly modest £250m.

Houses were required to pay 9 or even 9 1/4 per cent to secure a decent line, although for a brief period after lunch money was taken at around 8 per cent.

The Bank provided total assistance of £254m, channelled via outright purchases of bills across the four bands at established rates.

The close was still quite tight, despite the Bank apparently giving sufficient help, with final balances being picked up at mostly 9 per cent.

The Bank said at the outset that the major drain on market liquidity would come from maturing assistance and take-up of Treasury bills amounting to

£541m. Rising note circulation took another £75m and below-target bankers' balances a further £70m.

The short end firmed up a shade in anticipation of extremely tight credit conditions today, partly because of petroleum revenue tax payments.

The longer end of the CD market saw the bid, the day's activity, with dealer reporting business in "elevens" and "twelves" at 9 1/4 per cent, and some buying of "tens" at the same rate.

Interbank overnight money traded at 9 1/4 per cent for much of the session, though the rate touched extremes of 7 and 10 per cent late in the session before finishing at about 9 per cent bid.

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To the Holders of

W. R. Grace Overseas Development Corporation

5% Guaranteed Sinking Fund Debentures Due 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Indenture dated as of April 1, 1966 providing for the above Debentures, said Debentures aggregating \$750,000 principal amount have been selected for redemption on April 1, 1984 through operation of the Sinking Fund at the redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest to said date, as follows:

Outstanding Debentures of \$1,000 each of prefix "M" bearing the distinctive numbers ending in any of the following two digits:

00 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99

Also Debentures of \$1,000 each of prefix "M" bearing the following serial numbers:

431 1351 2651 4061 5751 6351 8251 9351 10151 12151 12651 13651 14251
751 1581 2851 4261 5851 6851 8451 9451 11051 12751 13751 14851 14951
1061 2061 3251 4351 6151 6951 8551 9551 10651 11751 12351 13851 14051

Payment will be made upon presentation and surrender of the above Debentures with coupons due October 1, 1984 and subsequent coupons attached at the main offices of any of the following: Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, 30 West Broadway, New York, New York 10015; Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York in Brussels, Frankfurt am Main, London and Paris; Algemeene Bank Nederland N.V. in Amsterdam; Credito Italiano in Milan; and Banque Internationale a Luxembourg S.A. in Luxembourg. Coupons due April 1, 1984 should be detached and collected in the usual manner.

On and after April 1, 1984 interest shall cease to accrue on the Debentures selected for redemption. The current conversion price of the Debentures is \$57.22 per share of Common Stock of W. R. Grace & Co. The right to convert the Debentures called for redemption shall expire at the close of business on March 22, 1984.

W. R. GRACE OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Dated: March 1, 1984

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9%
BCCI	9%
Citibank Savings	10 1/4%
Consolidated Crds	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

↑ Mortgage Base Rate.
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(Incorporated with limited liability under the laws of the State of Delaware, United States of America)

Authorized

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*Including 10,050,000 shares reserved for issue

American Information Technologies Corporation is the holding company for Bell telephone operating companies in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin. It also owns Ameritech Mobile Communications, cellular mobile radio service; Ameritech Development Corporation, new business ventures; Ameritech Communications, communications equipment marketing; and Ameritech Publishing, Yellow Pages advertising.

The Company began operations on 1st January, 1984 with assets totalling nearly U.S.\$17 billion. Forecast revenues for 1984 are U.S.\$38.3 billion. Forecast net income for 1984 is U.S.\$923.7 million, resulting in an earnings-per-share estimate of U.S.\$9.47. The 1984 financial forecast of the Company, including significant forecast assumptions, is set forth in the Information Statement of the Company contained in the American Telephone and Telegraph Company Information Statement and Prospectus dated 8th November, 1983.

The Council of The Stock Exchange has admitted to the Official List all the 106,641,203 shares of common stock of American Information Technologies Corporation issued and reserved for issue.

Particulars relating to American Information Technologies Corporation are available in the Extel Statistical Service and copies of such particulars, together with copies of the Information Statement and Prospectus referred to above, may be obtained during usual business hours on any weekday (Saturdays excepted) up to and including 15th March, 1984 from:

S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.,
30 Gresham Street,
London EC2P 2EB

Goldman Sachs International Corp.,
162 Queen Victoria Street,
London EC4V 4DB

Philips & Drew,
120 Moorgate,
London EC2M 6XP

1st March, 1984

هكذا من الأصل

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Equipment group goes to Bullough

The Bullough organization is to pay £6.5m in cash for the issued share capital of George Barker and Co (Leeds), makers of refrigerated store display equipment.

The acquisition, from members of founder families, is subject to the approval of Bullough shareholders. The money will come from a seven-year loan from Bullough's bankers.

Amstrad Consumer Electronics: Six months to December 31, 1983. Intm. div. 0.27p (0.22p adj). Figures in £000. Division over 53,245 (28,611). Pretax profit 6,322 (4,586). Tax 3,097 (2,067). Minorities 24 (nil). EPS 3.43p (2.7p) in accordance with SAP 3).

Raine Industries: Six months to December 31, 1983. Interim dividend 0.2 (0.17p). Board intends to recommend a total dividend for year of 0.75p (0.64p). Figures in £000. Sales 7,522 (6,272). Pretax profit 303 (241). After interest 143 (163).

First Scottish American Trust: Figures in £000. Revenue, after all charges, for year to Jan. 31, 1984, 1.634 (1.675). Earnings per share slipped from 5.22p to 5.03p, but total dividend maintained at 5.15p net a share.

● "Investing in Success" Equities: Year to Jan. 31, 1984. Figures in £000. Pretax revenue 573 (682). Earnings per share 6.29p (7.8p). Total dividend 5.32p (5.18p) net a share.

● Jos Holdings: Half-year to Jan. 31, 1984. Figures in £000. Net earnings for ordinary capital 95 (72). Earnings per ordinary share up from 1.17p to 1.54p. Interim payment up from 0.86p to 1p net a share, partly to reduce disparity between payments. Board expects final dividend will not be less than last year.

● Argyle Trust: Results for 1983 (comparisons adjusted). Figures in £000. Income 4,637 (3,661). Pretax profit 278 (395). Dividend 0.5p net a share.

● ICC Oil Services: At the EGM, the resolutions approving the acquisition of Jenkins and Davies were passed and accordingly the agreements have become unconditional and have been completed. A total of 7.7m ordinary shares have been allotted, of which 6.26m were placed by Capel-Cure Myers. Mr G. H. Davies, the principal shareholder of Jenkins and Davies, has been appointed to the board of ICC.

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Our shareholders, at an Extraordinary General Meeting held on January 27, 1984 resolved to change the name of the Bank from its former style, **BANQUE WORMS ET ASSOCIES (GENEVE) S.A.**

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Economic commentary by Tim Congdon

A challenge to public sector net growth

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DEBT IN SIX OECD COUNTRIES, 1973-82

Financial years	Average annual change in central gov't debt as % share of GDP	Change in share (as % of GDP) attributable to: Inflation	Interest payments	Net new debt issues	Average real return (%)
US (1973/4-1981/2)	-8.3	-1.5	+1.6	+6.7	-4.1
Japan (1973/4-1981/2)	+3.5	-1.5	+1.2	+4.3	-2.8
Germany (1973-1982)	+1.3	-8.8	+0.7	+1.3	+1.4
France (1973-1981)	+0.3	-0.8	+0.7	+0.6	-1.8
UK (1973/4-1981/2)	-8.5	-5.4	+2.5	+3.2	-6.7
Canada (1973/4-1980/1)	-0.4	-3.1	+2.4	+1.4	-1.7

Component changes do not add up to total since effect of relative price changes and real gdp growth is excluded.
Source: Article on "Public sector deficits" in OECD Occasional Studies, June, 1983.

and that such effects need be measured and watched.

His reasoning is straightforward and superficially persuasive. In the taxation case, the Government acquires a physical asset, worth let us say £2 billion, and incurs no financial liability. So the public sector's net worth has risen by £2 billion. In the borrowing case, by contrast, a matching financial liability of £2 billion is incurred and the public sector's net worth is unchanged.

If Mr Hills wants to invent statistical categories for their own sake, there can be no objection to his procedure. But, if he believes that the differences in the public sector's net worth are relevant to the behaviour of the nation as a whole, he is mistaken.

The illusion that they are relevant arises because, with borrowing, the unchanged public sector's net worth is accompanied by a £2 billion increase in private sector claims

on government. This increase, represented by gilt-edged securities or, less grandly, by bits of paper, appears to increase the private sector's asset holdings. It is easy to be fooled into thinking that the increase in private sector assets make the nation richer.

But this makes no sense. The nation must pay taxes to cover interest due on the bits of paper, and the nation which pays these taxes is the same nation which owns the bits of paper. A community cannot run into debt to itself. But neither can it make itself better-off by printing certificates of mutual indebtedness.

It would, of course, be most agreeable if Mr Hills was right. The Government should immediately stop all taxes, conscript the entire working population and instruct it to build factories for printing gilt-edged securities, preferably of very high denomination. Within a short period of time it would be

possible to increase the private sector's assets by billions.

This may sound like caricature, but it is certainly an interpretation allowed by several passages in Mr Hills's paper. At one point we are told that private sector wealth is affected by changes in the public sector's net nominal financial liabilities (like the hypothetical £2 billion borrowed for the development of Hyde Park) and in the market value of gilt-edged securities. We are also assured that such changes are a meaningful indicator of the Government's fiscal stance.

Imagine the fantasy world we would then be living in. Suppose the Government quadrupled the PSBR from £8 billion to £32 billion. On any normal reckoning this would constitute an injection of demand into the economy so massive that it would have to be described as a major easing of fiscal policy. But, through both its monetary repercussions and its demand effects, the £32 billion PSBR would cause a serious deterioration in inflation prospects. The gilt-edged market would anticipate this by adjusting the market value of existing holdings downwards, probably by at least £30 billion. According to Mr Hills, fiscal policy would then have been tightened because the £30 billion fall in the market value of gilts exceeds the £24 billion increase in the PSBR. Laymen may marvel at what passes for economics in contemporary Britain.

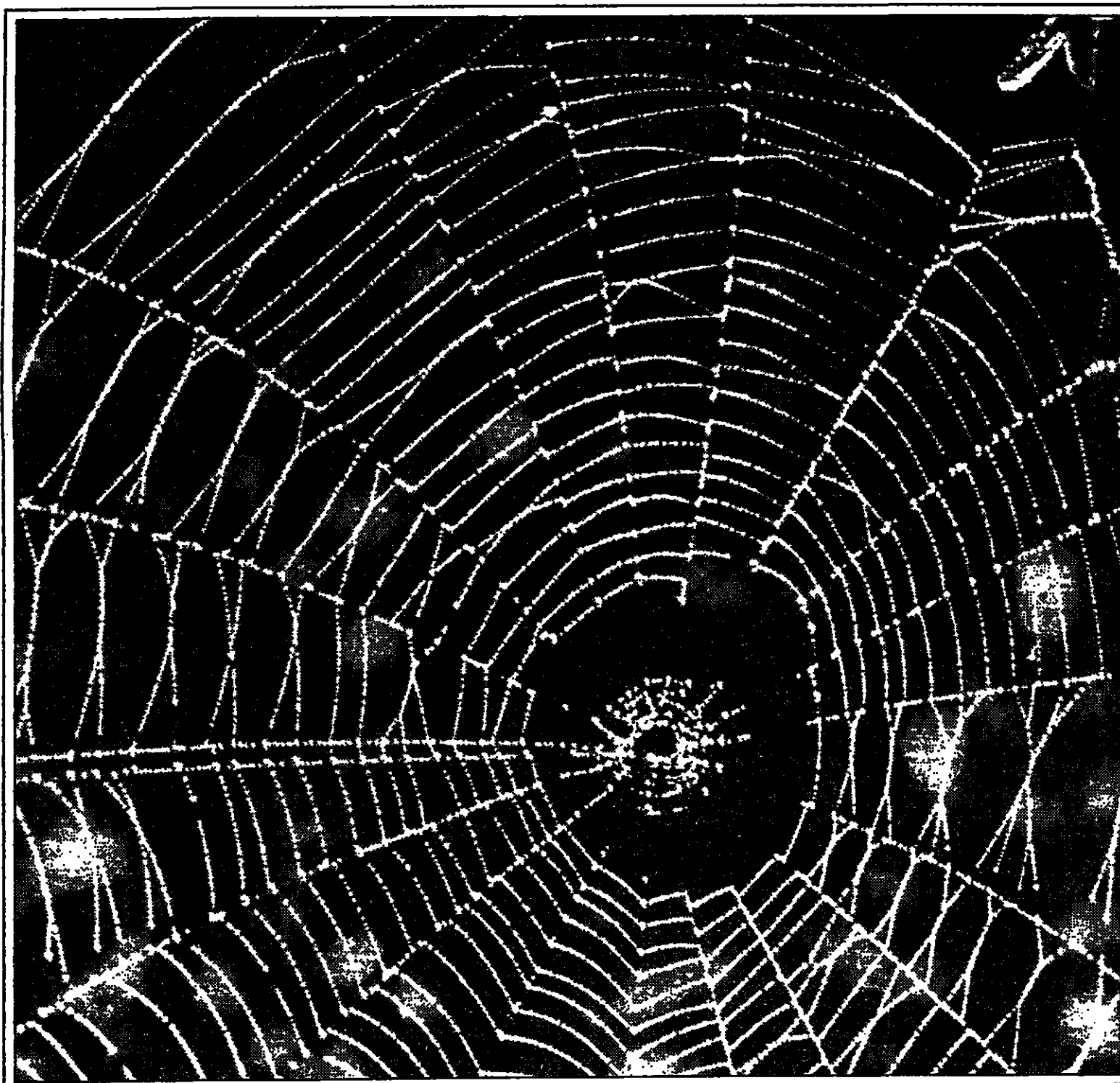
In his conclusion, Mr Hills briefly recognises that bondholders and taxpayers are members of the same nation

and that this may undermine the behavioural significance of the concept of public sector net worth. His riposte is that, although they may belong to the same nation, bondholders and taxpayers are not necessarily the same people. Changes in the public sector net worth may therefore be accompanied by changes in income and wealth.

This is correct. In particular, unanticipated inflation reduces the wealth of holders of gilt-edged securities and increases that of taxpayers. The process is wholly unfair since it amounts, in effect, to the Government refusing to repay the real value of its debts. Some figures prepared by the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development show that since 1973 the British Government has been more dishonest on this score than any other major industrial nation. Inflation cut the real value of central government debt by an average of 5.4 per cent of gross domestic product per year between 1973/74 and 1981/2.

The Thatcher government's objectives in controlling the PSBR have been to help contain monetary growth, check inflation and so prevent a repeat of this discreditable performance. Although the PSBR has its drawbacks and weaknesses, it remains for more useful to the task at hand than the public sector net worth and its derivatives. The public sector net worth has given economists a new and entertaining parlour game, but its significance for government policy should not be overstated.

The author is economics partner at stockbroker L. Messel & Co.



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Banks put receiver in at Capper-Neill

Two leading clearing banks have been severely criticized for forcing Capper-Neill, one of the best known names in British plant engineering, into receivership owing £50m.

The company was put into receivership on Tuesday owing £50m to its bankers and other creditors, after the banks - National Westminster and Midland - refused to agree to a £50m rescue package that was being put forward by its leading shareholder Consolidated Contractors Group, an Arab-backed construction company.

"We are desperately unhappy about this and we feel the banks should have seen their way to agreeing to the rescue package. It is not much for a bank to defer its interest payments for a few months but it is a sad thing to see yet another part of British industry vanishing," Mr Derek Perrey, a Capper director, said yesterday.

The banks have denied the suggestion that they have unnecessarily put the company into receivership.

Mr Michael Jordan, of Cork Gully, the firm of accountants

which has been appointed receiver, said he had high hopes of saving a substantial proportion of the jobs of the 1,400 people the company employs at its headquarters at Bold, on Merseyside.

London Brick
Control of London Brick, Britain's largest brickmaker, has passed to Hanson Trust for £247m after a nine-week takeover battle. By the time the offer closed, Hanson had 54.5 per cent of the company. It is now unconditional and has been extended.

Save & Prosper
Save & Prosper, the unit trust group, has launched a high interest bank account which offers all the normal current account facilities as well as an automatic unsecured overdraft of at least £3,500. The account, aimed at the best customers of the clearing banks, is one of the most sophisticated high interest accounts yet.

NEWS ROUND-UP

The minimum deposit is £1,000 and the account pays interest at an effective annual rate of 9 per cent. It includes a Premier Visa Card which customers can use to draw cash from more than 5,000 bank branches throughout the country in minimum sums of £100.

There are also facilities for standing orders and a cheque book. The Visa card guarantees cheques up to £75.

Donald Macpherson
Overall profits, announced by Woolworths paint supplier Donald Macpherson, for the year to October were marginally down at £1.3m. But Macpherson made an attributable loss of more than £3.7m after profits of £440,000 after rationalization costs of £3.8m.

TSL Thermal Syndicate
TSL Thermal Syndicate, the Newcastle company, which once enjoyed a reputation as a

go-go high technology share on the stockmarket, is asking selected shareholders to stump up more than £1m after turning in a big loss for the second year running.

Shareholders are also being asked to remove Dr Gordon Hetherington, the deputy chairman, from the board after the appointment of Mr Bent Hetherington, a former managing director, ceased to be an executive director last April after a unanimous vote by the board. He subsequently issued a writ for damages.

Another director, who resigned last June, received a "golden handshake" of £83,000 according to the annual report which was published yesterday.

TSL is the biggest British producer of vitreous silica, a glass-like material widely used in the aerospace, heating and scientific industries. The figures released yesterday show a pre-tax loss of £1.6m

against last year's loss of £916,000 and a nominal dividend payment of 0.1p against 1p.

TSL is raising £1.06m by an underwritten one-for-three rights issue of 2.4 million shares at 50p. Two of the four institutions which control more than half TSL's equity are taking up 444,000 shares with the balance underwritten. The two institutions are Kleinwort Benson Investment Trust and British American Finance.

Miss World
Miss World has topped the profit figures it forecast last year at the time of joining the Unlisted Securities Market. Mr Eric Morley, executive chairman, said the company would make £300,000. The figure for the year to last December came out at £240,000 on a turnover up from £718,000 to just over £1m. The final dividend is an expected 2p per share making 3p for the year. The group has increased its sponsorship of the Miss England, Scotland, Wales and Miss UK competitions.

RECENT ISSUES

Company	Price	Div	Yield
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
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Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40

BRITISH FUNDS

Company	Price	Div	Yield
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40

MEDICALS

Company	Price	Div	Yield
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40

LONGS

Company	Price	Div	Yield
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40

COMMUNITIES AND FOREIGN

Company	Price	Div	Yield
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
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Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Company	Price	Div	Yield
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
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Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40

DOLLAR STOCKS

Company	Price	Div	Yield
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
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Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

Company	Price	Div	Yield
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
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Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40

BREWERS AND DISTILLERS

Company	Price	Div	Yield
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
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COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

Company	Price	Div	Yield
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
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1983/84 High Low Company Price Ch'ge Pence % P/E

Company	Price	Div	Yield
Acc Energy 3p Ord (150)	12.50	3.00	2.40
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1983/84 High Low Company Price Ch'ge Pence % P/E

Paris	11.55-11.56	1987
London	11.55-11.56	1987
Singapore	11.55-11.56	1987
Tokyo	347-350	1987
Hong Kong	17.25-17.26	1987
Zurich	3.21-3.22	1987

Effective exchange rate 200%

Money Market Rates

Cleaning Banks Base Rate 9%

Discount Mkt Loans 9%
Overnight 8 1/2 %

Week Fixed: 94-95

Expiring	Treasury Billed
3 months 95 1/2	2 1/2
3 months 95 1/2	2 1/2

Prime Bank Bills (Discount)

3 months 94-95 1/2	2 1/2
3 months 94-95 1/2	2 1/2
3 months 94-95 1/2	2 1/2
6 months 95-96	3

Local Authority

1 month 94-95 1/2	1 1/2
2 months 94-95 1/2	1 1/2
3 months 94-95 1/2	1 1/2
4 months 94-95 1/2	1 1/2
5 months 94-95 1/2	1 1/2
6 months 94-95 1/2	1 1/2

Secondary Mkt. Of

1 month 94-95 1/2	1 1/2
3 months 94-95 1/2	1 1/2

Local Authority

2 days 94	1 1/2
7 days 94	1 1/2
1 month 94	1 1/2

Interbank Mkt

Overnight 94-95 1/2	1 1/2
1 week 94-95 1/2	1 1/2
3 months 94-95 1/2	1 1/2

First Class Finance Note

2 months 9 1/2	1 1/2
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Finance House Base Rate 9%

Insolvency law to be overhauled

Directors risk stiffer penalties

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

Professional Standards for Insolvency Practitioners
The present law, which allows persons with no practical experience or relevant professional qualification to act as trustee or liquidator, or as receiver for a debenture-holder, is unsatisfactory.

To give creditors confidence in the persons they appoint to administer insolvent estates and to reduce the amount of supervision required by the Department of Trade and Industry, insolvency practitioners will normally have to be practising solicitors or members of accountancy bodies recognised for the purpose by the Secretary of State. They will also be obliged to obtain an insurance bond against all types of dishonesty and negligence. The Review Committee on Insolvency Law and Practice proposed that there should be transitional arrangements to cater for experienced but unqualified practitioners. The Secretary of State will have powers to authorise any person who has regularly acted as an insolvency practitioner over a period of five years before the issue of this White Paper.

Steps will be taken to extend the power of the court to enforce the duties that liquidators, administrators or trustees have to those entitled to participate in the distribution of funds which they administer. It is for consideration as to how far parallel duties should be extended to receivers.

Disqualification and Personal Liability of Company Directors
Directors who allow their companies to arrive at a state of affairs where they are wound up compulsorily by the court have demonstrated that they are not fit to be in control of a company and the proposed legislation will therefore provide (with limited exceptions) for the automatic disqualification for three years from the management of a company of the directors of insolvent companies wound up by the court.

Reckless directors of companies that become insolvent will face stiffer penalties under government proposals to stop abuses of limited liability. They may become personally liable for company debts if a liquidator successfully sues them for a new civil offence of wrongful trading. Liquidators will be able to ask the courts to disqualify directors for up to 15 years on a first offence and, when a company is put into

compulsory liquidation, they will automatically be disqualified for three years.

The proposals are contained in a White Paper, preparing the way for a new Insolvency Bill which the Department of Trade and Industry hopes to introduce in the 1984-85 parliamentary session.

The detailed measures will be aimed at encouraging voluntary arrangements for insolvency, freeing official receivers to investigate fraud, saving more companies from unnecessary liquidation and simplifying the procedure for personal bankruptcy.

The courts will also be able to appoint a new figure called an administrator, who can take over a company's management at an earlier stage than receivers, to save more companies from becoming fully insolvent and being broken up.

The Floating Charge and Company Receivership
The gradual development of this century of the law relating to the appointment of receivers and managers under a floating charge as a result of decisions of the courts has given rise to uncertainty as to the exact nature of the powers and obligations of receivers and managers.

The Insolvency Bill will, therefore, contain provisions which will establish more clearly in the legislation these powers and obligations. In addition, the opportunity will be taken to impose additional obligations on the receiver to grant unsecured creditors of a company in receivership the opportunity to form a committee, and to provide such committees with information.

The committee of unsecured creditors will be empowered to seek redress from the court if dissatisfied with the information provided by a receiver.

The Administrator
Receivership is not necessarily the complete remedy where a concern is confronted by serious financial problems but where there is a reasonable prospect of rehabilitation in whole or in part.

The Government agrees with the Review Committee's recommendation that an alternative insolvency mechanism, to be known as the administrator procedure, should be established. This new procedure will facilitate the rehabilitation or reorganisation of a company in difficulties with a view to restoring it to profitability or will encourage the preservation of viable elements of a company as going concerns.

The court will be empowered to appoint an administrator to a company on the application of the company or a creditor of the company, where the company is insolvent or close to insolvency but where there is a reasonable prospect of rehabilitation or re-organisation of the company in whole or in part.

No administrator will be appointed, however, where the holder of a floating charge wishes to exercise his right to appoint a receiver and manager.

The task of the administrator will be in two stages. On appointment, he will assume the management of the company and undertake the preparation of a rescue or rehabilitation policy, or failing that, a policy for the most profitable realisation of assets in the interest of the company's creditors and shareholders.

The administrator will then be required to submit his proposed policy to the company's unsecured creditors. If, in the light of his

proposals, they vote in favour of his continued appointment, the administrator will have the power to confirm his appointment subject to hearing views expressed by other interested parties.

During the currency of an administrator's appointment no petition for winding up may be made without the leave of the court. The appointment of the administrator will bring about a stay on all proceedings, and actions and on the creditors' rights to enforce security or payment, or to levy execution, except where proceedings to levy distress commence prior to the appointment.

The administrator will be under a duty to act at all times in the interest of the creditors and shareholders as a whole.

The introduction of wrongful trading will encourage directors to consider at an earlier stage the financial position and prospects of their companies. The availability of the administrator procedure will ensure that an alternative to receivership or liquidation will be available where there are reasonable grounds for supposing that rehabilitation or reorganization of a company is achievable.

The Role of the Insolvency Service
The Government considers it essential, both in the public interest and that of the creditors, that the Official Receiver should continue to become actively involved in compulsory windings up and bankruptcies immediately an order is made by the court and that his present role as regards the protection and preservation of assets should continue.

This function also has the advantage from an investigative point of view of enabling the Official Receiver at a very early stage to obtain an essential insight into how the affairs of the company or debtor have been conducted.

The Official Receiver's investigative role is of paramount importance. The reforms to insolvency procedures will have the effect of freeing the Official Receiver from time-consuming and demanding tasks which have no direct bearing on investigation. The Government wishes to see insolvency-related offences prosecuted wherever possible, thus enhancing commercial morality and acting as a deterrent to those who might otherwise engage in illegal activities.

The Department of Trade and Industry will have the power to appoint liquidators in compulsory windings up where none has otherwise been appointed, as it does for trustees in bankruptcy.

A Revised Framework for Insolvency Law (HMISO Command 97/5, £4.65)

Legal Appointments are featured every TUESDAY 01-278 9161/5

Voluntary Procedures
Corporate debtors: Voluntary winding up is a valuable procedure enabling insolvent companies and their creditors to settle their affairs privately without official involvement. Strict standards for insolvency practitioners, improved disqualification measures and new provisions imposing personal liability on directors will go a long way towards protecting creditors' interests. However, the Government feels that further measures are necessary, in particular to deal with the practice of an insolvent company acting in breach of the present provisions by appointing a liquidator to realise its assets before the creditors have met and had a chance to appoint their own nominee.

This effectively wrests control from the creditors and provides scope for the disposal of assets at below their true value, possibly involving collusion between the liquidator and the company's directors. Provisions have been designed to remedy this abuse and to provide creditors in a voluntary winding up with better and more detailed information.

Personal debtors: Personal debtors who wish to make a voluntary settlement with their creditors by using a deed of arrangement are often advised not to do so, since a deed, even if the majority of creditors accept the proposals, does not bind the minority and any non-assenting creditor can still petition for bankruptcy. Provisions will, therefore, be introduced to make it easier for debtors to make binding private arrangements with their creditors without unnecessary official involvement. The new small case procedure is specifically aimed at assisting debtors with assets to avoid bankruptcy by entering into an arrangement.

(iv) Acts of bankruptcy: the concept of acts of bankruptcy will be abolished and petitions for bankruptcy will be put on much the same basis as those for compulsory winding up.

(v) Deposits on petitions: to offset the Official Receiver's costs and expenses in company cases where there is a paucity of assets a petition deposit equivalent to that for creditors' petitions in bankruptcy will be introduced for compulsory winding up.

(vi) Petition debts: the minimum debt capable of supporting a creditor's petition for both compulsory winding up and bankruptcy will be increased from £200 to £750.

(vii) Discharge of debtors: debtors will be automatically discharged from a first bankruptcy three years after the date of the bankruptcy order, introducing uniformity of treatment for debtors and avoiding the involvement of the Official Receiver and the court in complex discharge procedures. Automatic discharge will not apply in relation to second or subsequent bankruptcies.

(viii) Interest on claims: interest rates applicable in insolvencies will be brought up to date and the various winding-up and bankruptcy provisions will be harmonised.

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Commercial property

A retail bonanza

In the last few years, investment in retail developments has proved highly attractive to funds and institutions, with new shopping schemes the glittering prize.

The latest statistics from Hillier Parker May and Rowden show that in 1983, 22 new shopping schemes opened, containing just over 3m sq ft. This is marginally up on the previous year - 3,011,000 sq ft compared with 2,875,000 sq ft in 1982 - but still the second lowest annual total since 1968, with 1975 and 1976 representing the peak years. From 1966, steady growth led to a total of 5,173,000 sq ft in 1975 and 7,777,000 sq ft in 1976.

The findings are published in the 1983 supplement to *British Shopping Developments 1965-82*, published last year. It is the first annual updating of the information to follow that report, which lists all comprehensive retail developments of at least 50,000 sq ft gross lettable area in Britain.

The total amount of floor space opened over the last 18 years is 77,867,000 square feet. In 1983 the average size of schemes opened was 137,000 square feet and the largest scheme, totalling 406,000 square feet, was the Broadway Centre at Bexleyheath.

Next in size were the Grafton Centre, Cambridge, developed by Grosvenor, and totalling 290,000 square feet, the Ealing Broadway Centre (J Laing, 281,000 square feet) and The Ridings in the centre of Wakefield (Capital and Counties, 250,000 square feet).

In 1983, Asda opened four developments, and in the last two years has opened seven

schemes, more than any other development. In terms of floor space, Asda is second to Norwich Union.

Clearly the success of a retail development depends on giving the customers what they want. The Fitch and Company Shopping Centre Consortium have just published a report emphasising the need for an imaginative approach to customers' needs, which they call "creative market planning", rather than traditional retail research.

Contracts have been exchanged for the sale of the freehold interest in probably the largest vacant warehouse building ever to be sold in London - some 240,000 square feet of modern warehousing standing on a site of about 12 acres owned by the H J Heinz Company at its north-west London complex. It is understood that Bestway Cash and Carry (Holdings) Ltd paid close to £4m for the building, which will be used as a wholesale cash and carry operation. Savills, acting for Heinz, announced.

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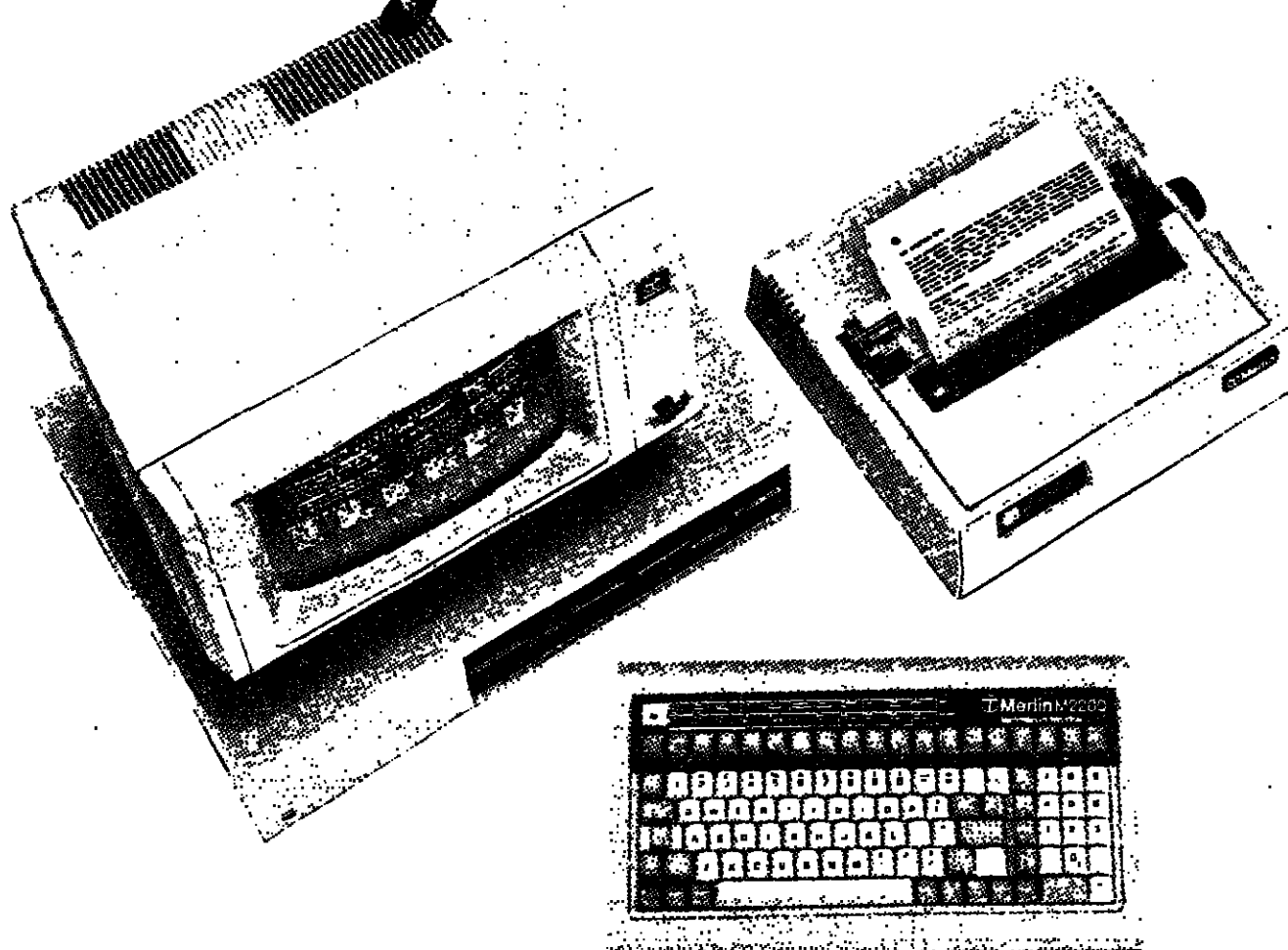
Two adjacent resort Casino/Hotels on Palm Beach, Aruba - now known as the Aruba Caribbean and the Aruba Palm Beach. Can be bought separately or together. Each is in continuous operation, with 200 rooms, plus enough included land to double the capacity (or more). Each has banquet facilities, dining rooms, meeting rooms, night club, swimming pool, tennis courts and other typical resort hotel amenities, along with more than 550 linear feet of beach frontage. Close to other hotels, shopping, and all the attractions that have made Aruba one of the most popular Caribbean tourist destinations.

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**England must not allow
the men in white coats to
make their lives a misery**

Northern relent after tour warning

The reasons given were that Bradford have a league game with Wigan tonight, and next week are engaged in the quarter-finals of the Challenge Cup. The coach, Peter Fox, said: "I am not sure that it is fair to ask a player to leave his family and to return home to pursue his university studies. Cannon, who scored two fine tries in Wigan's Challenge Cup second round tie with Oldham on Sunday will

Alex Murphy, the Wigan manager, was prepared to have Cannon flown back from Australia.

The tie of the round is Widnes v Hull Kingston Rovers, the two sides most favoured to win the Cup.

DRAW: Widnes v Hull Kingston Rovers, York v Castleford, St Helens v Wigan, Leeds v Bradford Northern. (Matches to be played on March 10 and 11.)

England, as is often the case at this level and younger levels, looked more mature, more knowing. But more encouragingly, if only the seniors would take heed, they were punishingly direct: Sterland, playing on home territory, set the tone,

ENGLAND: G Bailey (Manchester Univ);
Starland (Sheffield Wednesday); T Calk
(Aston Villa); Icut: N Pickering (Sunderland);
Calkin (Barnsley); J Wood (Norwich)
City; G Savory (Tottenham Hotspur);
Calkahan (Watford); S Moran (Southampton)
(Icut: M Chamberlain (Stoke City); M Haste
(Portsmouth); S Dodge (Nottingham Forest);
Wallace (Southampton).

FRANCE: P Ormka (Bastia); L Perard (Lava)
B Boli (Auxerre); Pean (Nîmes); P Lesat
(Tours); S Adonier (Lorient); T Olskask (Sar
Ebenne); J-M Ferret (Auxerre); P Azza
(Sochaux); D Philippe (Nancy-Lorraine).



English pride on a different level

By Clive White

[illegible]

The Welsh foresee end of Scotland

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

[illegible][illegible]

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The postholder will provide full secretarial support to the Unit Administrator and should possess administrative and organisational ability. In addition to demonstrating a willingness to take an active part in the work of this department.

The successful applicant must be able to work on their own initiative and under pressure while maintaining a cheerful personality in a wide variety of situations.

Good shorthand and typing speeds are essential as well as experience of audio typing and minute taking.

For application form and job description please contact the Personnel Department, University College Hospital, Gower Street, London WC1 6AU or telephone 01-387 2374 (24 hour service) quoting reference DB38.
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Our Promotions Manager together with her very busy team are eager to appoint a Secretary who will be capable of working on their own initiative on special assignments, in addition to normal secretarial duties.

The successful applicant will be age 20-25 years, have previous experience in a cosmetic or closely related environment and with a good standard of shorthand and typewriting skills enjoy working in a very busy high-pressure but happy office based in London W1.

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Please apply giving full details of age, previous experience and qualifications to the Personnel Manager, Charles of the Ritz, Victoria Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex. Interviews will be carried out in London.

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For applications contact Mrs Janet Hildridge on
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The successful candidate will be expected to work as part of a team as well as to manage his/her own workload for particular activities or conferences. Essential requirements are: Administrative flair, pleasant manner, smart appearance as well as the ability to work under pressure when the occasion demands.

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The successful candidates should be in the 24-30 age band, female or male, educated at least to 'O' Level standard (probably higher), skilled communicators with warm personalities, quick and alert, frank, confident and ambitious. Previous similar experience is by no means essential although a sales or office background may be so.

Our better Temps Controllers earned in excess of £12,000 last year and many were promoted.

If you like the sound of a responsible, career post with the Alfred Marks Group, please write to me or call into any office of Alfred Marks, asking for a private chat with the Manager.

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Home Computers/Consumer Electronics
Berkshire

ORIC PRODUCTS INTERNATIONAL, an outstanding British success, has achieved rapid profitability with its first product, the ORIC-1, a success which will act as an investment spring-board for further advanced products in the computer and consumer electronics markets. The most recent of these is the ATMO home computer.

These two new positions, reporting to the Sales and Marketing Director, will consolidate and build on ORIC's achievements to date.

National Sales Manager

c.£25,000 + profit share + car (Ref. 500806)

With responsibility for development of the company's UK sales, key tasks are to:

- Establish and implement a national sales policy and business plan.
- Develop close links with the major retailers.
- Manage a sales and merchandising operation of 20 people.
- Applicants should have a successful track record in sales and sales management in either the microcomputer or consumer electronics markets.

Export Sales Manager

c.£25,000 + profit share + car (Ref. 500807)

60% of ORIC's production is exported mainly to Europe and the Far East via over 20 distributors. In France the ORIC-1 was voted Computer of the Year in 1983.

This key role will be accountable for export sales with a wide ranging brief to:

- Establish the export sales and marketing strategy and business plan.
- Co-ordinate and direct overseas distributor activity.
- Review, develop and support the distributor network.
- Applicants must show success in international sales/marketing of consumer or electronics products, have a high degree of self reliance and commercial flair and be prepared to travel extensively.

Excellent additional benefits include a wide choice of executive, car, and non-contributory pension. Prospects with this expanding company are excellent.

Please write to Peter Lewis with details of your career to date - quoting the appropriate reference - or call 01-499 3705 (anytime) for an application form.

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Chemical Process Machinery SALES AND MARKETING MANAGER up to £20,000 pa

Our client is a member of a world-wide engineering group. Based in the West Midlands, this well known company manufactures batch and continuous processing machinery for UK and world markets. Reorganisation demands the appointment of a SALES AND MARKETING MANAGER, who, reporting to the Managing Director, will be responsible for the overall achievement of Home and Export Sales against agreed Sales Forecasts, meeting the budgeted profit targets, and preparing marketing policies, strategies and tactics designed to maximise profitability, growth rate and the market strengths of the Company.

If you have proven successful Sales/Marketing management experience with a chemical or process machinery manufacturing company, ideally selling to industrial, chemical, plastics or pharmaceutical users we would like to hear from you.

Self-motivation, persuasiveness plus excellent communication skills are essential. Overseas travel dictates that a knowledge of French and/or German is desirable.

The starting salary will reflect the importance that the company attaches to this new appointment. In addition will be company car and the usual benefits expected from a major international organisation.

Applications enclosing a brief cv. should be sent to the company's consultant, Ronald M. Hill, Premier Management Consultancy, 16 Kingston Hill, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT2 7NH.

PREMIER

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Merchant Banking

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We are seeking executives with the potential to make a significant contribution to our expanding domestic and international corporate finance business.

Successful applicants will be aged between 25 and 32 with a professional qualification in law or accountancy or a business school degree or other relevant experience.

Applications, enclosing a curriculum vitae, which will be treated in strict confidence, should be sent to:

G. E. J. Wood, Executive Director,
S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.,
30 Gresham Street, London EC2P 2EB.

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Finance Officer

The School is seeking to appoint a Finance Officer. Following re-organisation of the School's administrative structure the Finance Officer will be one of three senior officers reporting to the Secretary, who has responsibility to the Director for the administration of the School. The Finance Officer will advise on financial planning and will be responsible for budgeting and financial control, for management accounting and information, the continued development of financial computer systems and the day-to-day management of the financial division of the School's administration. Candidates should be professionally qualified with broad financial experience and an interest in pursuing their career in a stimulating academic environment. The successful candidate will play a full part in the general administration of the School. It is hoped that the successful candidate will be able to take up appointment by 1 October 1984. Salary will be within the Grade IV range of the salary structure for administrative staff in universities (professional equivalent range).

Further particulars of the appointment and application forms are available from the Secretary, London School of Economics and Political Science, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE. Closing date for applications: 28 March 1984.

Financial
Investment Analyst

Young, personable, financial specialist for international investment and trading company. Experience of the USA, UK and EA financial markets required. Preparation to travel for extensive periods. Hotel investment market knowledge required. Age up to 27. Starting salary £15,000 pa to be reviewed after 2 years depending on results. Write with full CV to Box 24088 The Times.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

BOUGH OF BRIGHTON - Royal Pavilion, Art Gallery & Museum. Applications are invited for the post of Principal, Royal Pavilion, Brighton. This is a third tier post. Applications should be made to the Brighton Museum and Art Gallery, 100, Regent Street, Brighton, BN1 1UE. The successful candidate will be responsible for the management and administration of the Royal Pavilion, Brighton. The post is full time, permanent and carries a salary of £15,000 pa. Applications should be sent to the Brighton Museum and Art Gallery, 100, Regent Street, Brighton, BN1 1UE. Closing date for applications: 28 March 1984.

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Box No. 2405H

The Times, London WC1X 8EZ.

All applications acknowledged.

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The Retail Consortium, the national trade organisation representing British Retailing, is seeking a PR/Research Assistant to be an active member of a busy team. Responsibilities include dealing with all aspects of public relations, handling press and other enquiries, compiling research and maintaining an information centre. The successful candidate will also be responsible for editing and producing the Consortium's Bulletin. A knowledge of or interest in, politics and commerce would be an advantage, together with relevant experience in research, the media or other aspects of public relations.

Salary £8,500 pa neg. according to age and experience.

Closing date of application: 9th March 1984.

Apply in writing enclosing full CV, to:

The Personnel Officer,
The Retail Consortium,
Palladium House,
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Our Reservoir Technology Section presently counts about 20 people. The Section has good laboratory and computer facilities and is engaged in a number of industry-oriented R & D projects concerning fluid flow in reservoirs, the properties of reservoir fluids, enhanced oil recovery and reservoir modelling.

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For more information, please call Rolf H. Utseth or Vigleik Dalen on 47 (Norway)-7-59 28 54. Applications with curriculum vitae should be submitted within March 18th 1984.

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GILDEMEISTER PROJECTS,
105 Oxford Road, Reading, Berks. RG1 7UD.

General Appointments

National Museum of Photography, Film and Television Bradford Administrator

This Museum, a unique partnership between the Science Museum, London, and the Bradford Metropolitan Council, which will eventually have 20,000 sq. ft. of exhibition area, houses the only Canadian developed IMAX cinema in the country, attracting many thousands of visitors from this country and overseas.

The successful candidate will be responsible to the Keeper for the day-to-day running of the Museum and for organising the administration and record-keeping of the Collections. The Administrator will also monitor the conditions of the galleries and organise their servicing, storage facilities and stored collections; deal with enquiries; manage a schedule of stocktaking; co-ordinate transport arrangements; and supervise 3 Curators Grade 6, and an object cleaner.

Candidates should normally have a degree with first or second class honours, or an equivalent qualification in a relevant subject, and significant previous relevant experience, preferably in a Museum.

Salary as Curator Grade 6 £5,785-£8,075. Starting salary according to qualifications and experience.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 21 March 1984) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencan Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: G/5382.

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- Alternatively write to: Stafford Napier, Director of Market Development, Technical Industries Limited, Wiltonbury Road, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 4DW.

RUGBY SCHOOL

As has already been announced the Headmaster of Rugby School, Mr Brian Rees, has resigned as from the 30th April, 1984.

The Governing Body will shortly be appointing his successor.

Applications (with the names of three referees) from those wishing to be considered for this position should be sent not later than 31 MARCH 1984 to:

THE CLERK TO THE GOVERNING BODY,

THE BURSARY,

RUGBY SCHOOL,

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For further details and an application form please contact:

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required for UK based executive SAG 1-11. Applicants should be aged between 21 to 27 years with previous executive jet experience. Please send CV and recent photo to Box No. 2404 H The Times.

For more information and an early confidential interview please contact:

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Leeds Castle, famous conference centre and third most visited stately home in England, has an opening for a General Manager.

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The General Manager will report to the Managing Director, with responsibility for conference planning, menu and wine selection, together with operating responsibility for all day visitors, special events and golf operations.

He will be required to live on the estate and will accordingly be provided with a house. The salary is negotiable based on experience and qualifications, and the benefit package includes a company car, pension, and relocation expenses.

Leeds Castle Enterprises Ltd, which will employ the General Manager, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Leeds Castle Foundation, a charity for the public benefit.

Applications, in strict confidence, with C.V. and salary history to: Mrs C. Smith, Personnel Co-ordinator, Leeds Castle Estate Office, Maidstone, Kent ME17 1PL.

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General Appointments

The Times guide to career development

Papua New Guinea for beginners

Employment prospects for expatriates are not quite what they were in the 1970s job boom, but one country where opportunities occur consistently though modestly is Papua New Guinea. The government of that country has placed a surprising number and range of job advertisements for skilled people such as engineers, economists, accountants, computer personnel, architects and secondary-level teachers.

What appears on the map to be a remote group of islands just above Australia is a Commonwealth country twice the size of the United Kingdom. Though its population is only 3 million it is one of the economic success stories of the last decade. The probable reason is that Papua New Guinea's progress has not been highly publicized. Its government has not embarked on the sort of prestige projects that attract more headlines than prosperity, but has merely gone on quietly developing, with the help of British, Australian and Japanese companies, its immense natural resources.

What the country does lack is the technical expertise to develop secondary industries. Seventy per cent of the

Godfrey Golzen outlines the opportunities in a country that still welcomes the expatriate

population is rural and seems in no hurry to rush into PNG's few towns. Port Moresby, the capital, has a population of only 120,000, of which 8 per cent are expatriates.

Most of the jobs advertised in British publications are in the public sector. Mostly, conditions of employment are standard. There is usually a three-year contract, with a period of home leave in the middle. Salaries are not high by expatriate standards; a person in their thirties could expect to earn £15,000 a year. On the other hand, pay is index-linked and subject to a sizable end-of-contract gratuity that increases its value. Normally, the New Guinea Kina (0.77 to the pound) is subject to exchange control, but there are no problems about getting money out.

There are the usual expatriate fringe benefits - a subsidy for educating children back in the UK, a

settling-in allowance and, above all, free accommodation. The notional value of that is, however, subject to income tax, about 30 per cent.

One criticism that expatriates have made of PNG is that the free accommodation is only sparsely furnished and the settling-in allowance often delayed. The advice therefore is to take immediate essentials like cutlery, and some bed linen, with you and to have goods such as electrical and sports equipment shipped out to follow. The ingenious suggestion has been made that they be packed in a second-hand freezer cabinet - a freezer being desirable equipment in a country where the temperature stays between 24°C and 31°C.

If, however, you depend on imported frozen foods you are likely to find PNG about 20m per cent dearer than the UK. Tropical fruits and local produce, of course, are cheap and delicious. As in so many other locations in developing countries, the extent to which you adapt is likely to determine both your personal happiness while you are there and the state of your purse at the end of the contract.

NEWSROUND

A British family of four, with a single income of £12,000 a year, spend an average of £4,500 in the UK on a shopping basket of essential items covering food, drink and tobacco, household durables, services, clothing and motoring. The same family would spend £5,800 in the US to maintain their UK pattern of consumption on these items. By comparison, however, a US national would be paid £27,000 in America for an equivalent job.

This is one of the findings in the survey of worldwide living costs published last month by Employment Conditions Abroad Ltd. Comparing day-to-day living costs in more than 140 countries, it indicates that the expatriate family tends to shop less price-effectively than its national counterpart, which offsets some of the potential savings in moving from a high-cost to a relatively low-cost country. The most expensive country for the British expatriate is Nigeria - two and a half times as expensive as the UK, and the cheapest is Venezuela, only three-quarters as expensive as Britain.

Simon Walsh writes: The problems faced by former businessmen in claiming social security benefits have been worsened by cutbacks in DHSS staffing levels, claims Phil Yewdall, Assistant Secretary (DHSS Section). The Civil and Public Servants Association.

At a conference organized by CPFA and the Society of Civil Servants last month to protest against the cuts, he said: "A problem has been with the number of businesses that fail, and thus the increasing number of businessmen

claiming social security benefits. These cases are considerably more complex and take up more time, but the calculations for allocating staff time do not take this into account."

Recently they started to train people to deal specifically with business cases. One hopes that this will ultimately help them to work more efficiently, but while they are in training there will be increasing pressures at DHSS offices simply because there is not enough staff."

A book published last month highlights the important role that retired executives may be able to play within the voluntary sector. *Work After Work*, by freelance journalist Judy Kirby, is published by Quiller Press on behalf of REACH (Retired Executives Clearing House), the national charity which helps match retired professionals and managers with voluntary jobs. The nine chapters include information on the charities which regularly recruit professional voluntary help, the kind of work involved, other ways of earning an income after retirement, and details of professional voluntary work abroad.

It also contains case studies of the many executives who have used professional voluntary work as a means of keeping themselves usefully occupied, including a selection from the growing number of executives forced by the recession to face early retirement or redundancy. *Work After Work* costs £2.95.

Tony Williamson writes: You

would think that food and drink were indispensable to life in this, or any other country, but this is not entirely reflected in the employment prospects in these sectors for the first quarter of this year.

Business has been bad in many areas of food and drink production over the last few years, and while a slight improvement has been announced in the latest Manpower Ltd employment survey, the industries are still relatively depressed, compared to other sectors.

More employers questioned in the survey were planning to expand their workforces than at this time last year - 10 per cent as opposed to 8 per cent in 1983. This figure is 5 per cent down on the previous quarter, but then, the early part of the New Year is never a good time to start talking about job prospects.

It seems, however, that a degree of stability is at last beginning to creep into the food and drink industries. The number of employers expecting to have to make staff cuts in the New Year has dropped from 26 per cent in 1983 to 22 per cent for this quarter. The report detects a "gradual but distinct upward trend" in the sector's labour demand. The calculation is based on the balance between those employers who are forecasting staff increases and those expecting staff losses. The balance is looking better than it did at this time last year, and the food and drink industries need all the encouragement they can get at this time.

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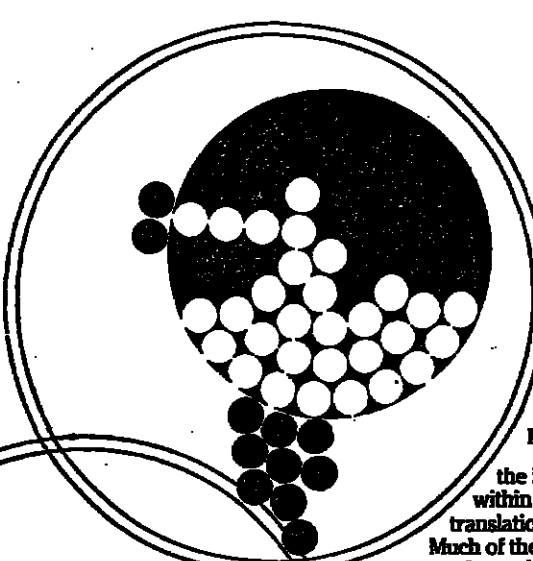
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The Project Executive's role will centre on the identification of projects arising largely from within Universities and Medical Schools and their translation into commercially viable ventures.

Much of the work will be in conjunction with research groups, companies and investors assisting the development in health care markets. Some overseas travel is likely.

Coupled with a relevant Degree, the successful applicant must have the ability to assess new ideas logically and will require top level skills in communication and negotiation which will have been developed by industrial, commercial or investment experience.

Some time in R & D as well as exposure to marketing would be desirable. The individual likely to succeed in this stimulating position will be required to be capable of developing innovative approaches to new opportunities.

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Please write with a full C.V. quoting Reference No. ST/PPD 28 to:

David Swift,

Staff Executive,

Scottish Development Agency,

120 Bothwell Street, Glasgow G2 7JP.

All applications must be submitted within 7 days of the appearance of this advertisement.

Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst

Director of Studies

£19,315

The Director is responsible for the implementation of all policies concerning the contribution of professional academic studies to courses; this involves constant liaison with the Commandant, academic, and senior military staff. Work also includes keeping the syllabi of courses under constant review; briefing courses; arranging lectures by VIPs; scrutinising examination results; reviewing reports on, and assessing the progress of students, and responsibility for the final reports on students. The Director has charge of about 50 multi-disciplinary academic staff, is a member of various Boards, and attends lectures and discussion groups, formal parades and conferences, functions

and social events connected with the life of the Academy.

Candidates will be expected to have a good honours degree in a relevant subject - intellectual stature is more important than academic discipline. Experience in a responsible position in a teaching institution is desirable and knowledge or experience of military affairs and organisation would be advantageous.

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For further details and an application form (to be returned by 27 March 1984) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours).

Please quote ref: G/6181.

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The Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital

DIRECTOR

Early Diagnosis Unit (6 sessions weekly)

Applications are invited for this newly created part-time (6 sessions weekly) Consultant post as Director to the Early Diagnosis Unit at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital.

The Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital was founded in 1868 to provide a service for women. An extensive building programme is virtually completed and the new Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital will be an integral part of Bloomsbury Health Authority.

providing a service for disorders of women. The Early Diagnosis Unit is an important development within the new Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital.

The successful candidate might have been trained in one of several appropriate disciplines. A suitable candidate who required extra training in a specific aspect of this work might be offered the post proleptically.

The Director will participate in the development of the operational policies for the Early Diagnosis Unit and will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Department. It is hoped that the Unit will collaborate with local General Practitioners who have age/sex registers to establish population-based screening as well as providing a service for patients from elsewhere.

These activities would provide a basis for research in a field relatively new to the NHS.

Application form and job description available from the Medical Personnel Department, Bloomsbury District headquarters, 25 Grafton Way, London, WC1E 6DS, or telephone 01-387 7643 (24-hour service) quoting reference PK/5.

Informal telephone enquiries about the post may be made to Dr June M. Crown, District Medical Officer, telephone 01-388 7011, ext 28. Closing date for receipt of applications is 19th March, 1984.

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Health Authority

MANAGING DIRECTOR

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Application form, particulars and details of duties may be obtained from the Town Clerk, Corporation of London, P.O. Box 270, Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ. Telephone 01-606 3030 extension 2405 or 2431, and should be returned to him by 2nd April, 1984.

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